



## Mubarak, Qadhafi discuss Gulf

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak Monday held talks with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on the confrontation between Iraq and the U.S.-led allies, an official said. Presidential spokesman Mohammed Abdul Menem said the two leaders "focused during their meeting on the escalation and the sad situation in Iraq and studied the possible developments in Iraq and the Gulf." He said they also discussed "a number of international, regional and Arab issues." Col. Qadhafi, whose country is under air sanctions, drove to Egypt Sunday. He was expected to go to the Mediterranean city of Alexandria the following day, but he headed straight for Cairo to meet Mr. Mubarak. Mr. Mubarak held an official welcome ceremony for his guest at the presidential Kabba Palace and then the two leaders started talks behind closed doors. Egypt was a main Arab participant in the U.S.-led multinational force that ousted Iraq from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war. Libya was against the coalition but did not support Iraq's invasion of the emirate. In the renewed confrontation between Iraq and the allies, both countries have expressed concern over the use of force against another Arab country. But while Egypt blamed Iraq for provoking the strike by breaching the ceasefire resolution, Libya accused the allies of unwarranted force.

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## Russia seeks Security Council talks

MOSCOW (R) — Russia, hinting at its unease over the increasing military action against Iraq, Monday called for a new meeting of the United Nations Security Council. A Foreign Ministry statement repeated the Russian leadership's view that Iraq had provoked the crisis. But it did not specifically endorse Sunday's cruise missile attacks and Monday's new air strikes and appeared to imply concern they might exceed their U.N. mandate. "Our firm position is that reaction to the actions of Iraq must be proportion and only according to agreed decision," it said. "The time is ripe to consider again the situation (in the Gulf) in the U.N. Security Council."

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# Allies unleash fresh attacks on Iraq

21 killed in American-British-French air raids near 'no-fly' zones; U.S. confirms cruise hit Al Rashid

## Baghdad vows to defend its land and airspace

Combined agency dispatches

ALLIED WARPLANES raided military targets in northern and southern Iraq Monday, while Baghdad residents expressed outrage over a U.S. cruise missile attack the night before.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported that 21 people were killed and one was wounded Monday. France, Britain or the United States reported no casualties among their forces in the confrontation over Baghdad's compliance with U.N. resolutions and allied-imposed "no-fly" zones.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz issued a statement Monday night blaming the U.N. special commission, in charge of weapons inspections in Iraq, as well as the United States for the bombings. He said the attacks "raised serious questions" about future Iraqi compliance with the commission because of Washington's influence on the international agency.

As night fell over Baghdad, sirens sounded and a barrage of anti-aircraft fire illuminated the sky for a short time. However, there were no signs of allied aircraft or missiles.

At the Pentagon, a senior official said the tracer fire was not triggered by any allied military attack. The anti-aircraft artillery barrage in Baghdad was "just nervous, itchy trigger fingers," said the official.

Baghdad residents were furious and there was weeping in neighborhoods hit by cruise missiles the night before.

"Kill Bush," said Fouzi Salman Al Bandar, 70-year-old Butheina Kambarga, was killed in Sunday night's missile attack on a factory Washington claimed was used in nuclear weapons production outside the capital.

But journalists who visited the plant Monday said it appeared to be a factory to make moulds and dies as reported by Iraqis Sunday. Iraq said it was just an industrial plant where U.N. inspectors dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire had put some equipment under seal but



Iraqi women cry at the funeral of a woman killed in Sunday's American missile attack on Baghdad

given the factory as a whole a clean bill of health. An official of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna said the facility was no

longer of great importance to Iraq's nuclear weapons program, dealt a crippling blow in the

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## King voices deep regret over flare-up, blames Arab inability

Lower House denounces attacks on Iraq

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday expressed "deep anger" at what he described as "unacceptable and sorrowful developments" in the Gulf between the Western-led alliance and Iraq.

These are "moments of sorrow and anger. (These feelings) are not shown on the face but (are) in the heart of all Arabs," the King told reporters at Amman military airport upon return home after a three-day visit to Oman.

Directly blaming Arab countries for failing to resolve the Gulf crisis when it first erupted in August 1990, King Hussein said the recent escalation of hostilities between Iraq and the Western coalition might have its roots in the Arabs' initial failure to settle the conflict on their own, "giving

others the chance to interfere with their affairs."

## Reports conflict

AMMAN (Petra) — A Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted a cable from the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad as saying that there were no casualties among Jordanian nationals living in the Iraqi capital in Sunday's missile attack on Baghdad.

The report said that all the members of the Jordanian delegation to an Islamic conference underway in the Iraqi capital were safe.

But a Petra report from the Iraqi capital said that among two women workers killed at Al Rashid Hotel in Baghdad was a Jordanian identified as Rafah Fakhri Abu Ghari. There was no immediate explanation to the conflicting reports.

"More than anybody else, I tried to deal with the problems and crises that faced us since 1990 within the Arab family, but we were, unfortunately, unable to do that," the King recalled.

"I believe the Arab World shares a great deal of the blame for what happened (by denying) ourselves the chance to deal with the dangerous crisis that faced us and solve it peacefully," he said.

Reaffirming Jordan's stand that chances for finding a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis were not fully exhausted, the King said: "No-one could be happy over the use of force in the area."

But "it is up for the Iraqi people to decide what to do," he said. The King said he hoped the Arabs would deal with the

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## Algeria to try 48 on death charges

ALGIERS (R) — An Algerian military court this week will try 48 Muslim extremists, including some 27 members of the armed forces, on charges punishable by death. Le Matin newspaper said Monday. One trial, of 18 men, charged with "terrorist" attacks in Laghouat region, 330 kilometres south of Algiers, will start Wednesday. The second, of 30 people — all servicemen except for three or four civilians — is due to start two days later. Le Matin said they faced charges including undermining state security, conspiracy and running an armed band, punishable by death.

## Rafsanjani urges Lebanese to unite

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Monday urged all groups in Lebanon to unite and rebuild their war-ravaged country. He told Nabih Berri, speaker of Lebanon's parliament and leader of the Shiite Amal Movement, in Tehran that Iran was ready to help Lebanon's reconstruction, the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) reported. "It is about time that all groups in Lebanon, while exercising vigilance, closed ranks and made reconstruction efforts so as to stop outsiders and enemies from penetrating or exploiting their country," it quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying.

## 300 feared buried in Turkish avalanche

ANKARA (AP) — An avalanche buried 50 houses in north-eastern Turkey Monday and 300 people were feared trapped under tonnes of snow, Anatolia news agency said. The disaster occurred in Ozengeli, 35 kilometres from the provincial centre of Bayburt, the agency said. The area is 800 kilometres east of Ankara. The news agency quoted a village as saying 50 of the 85 houses were buried.

## Israelis kill 3 Palestinians, including children, in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army killed three Palestinians in a clash with stone-throwers in the occupied Gaza Strip, international relief workers said Monday.

The deaths, which stemmed from an incident on Sunday, brought to seven the number of Palestinians killed by soldiers in five days in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. An eighth was shot dead by a civilian after stabbing and wounded four people at the Tel Aviv bus station Friday.

The army said troops opened fire on stone-throwers in Gaza's Shati refugee camp Sunday, killing two Palestinian teenagers. A third Palestinian died of wounds Monday morning, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Gaza said.

Marwan Dababesh, 13, was killed instantly in the clash. Hamdi Abu Hasira, 15, was wounded and died later Sunday. Jihad Muheisen, 22, died Monday at

Gaza's Shifa hospital. Eight were wounded in the clash, UNRWA said.

The army said it was checking the report of the third death. Figures compiled by Reuters show a sharp rise in the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers in the past two months, especially children.

Four Palestinian youngsters under the age of 15 were killed since Thursday in the Gaza Strip. In the five-year Palestinian revolt against military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israelis have killed 995 Palestinians, according to Reuters. An AP count put the figure at 1,018.

On Sunday, a cabinet minister, Yossi Sarid, urged Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to establish better controls to prevent killings of children by troops, the Jerusalem Post daily said.

"Too many kids are getting killed," the Post quoted Mr. Sarid as telling the weekly cabinet session. The minister demanded

that the government be briefed about every army investigation of the deaths of a minor.

Two members of Mr. Rabin's Labour Party, ministers Uri Baram and Chaim Ramon, asked Mr. Rabin to bar soldiers from using live gunfire in dispersing Palestinian protests in refugee camps, the Davar daily said. Mr. Rabin, who doubles as defence minister, refused, saying such a step would endanger the soldiers' lives.

Asked about the large number of children killed in Gaza in recent weeks, a military official said Monday: "I don't think this is part of any pattern. Unfortunately, we recently faced a wave of violence, especially in the Gaza Strip which has also claimed Israeli casualties."

Sunday's violence came as many Palestinians in the occupied territories observed a daylong general strike called to mark a

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## Prince Hassan meets German leaders

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday met in Bonn with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and discussed with him the latest developments in the Gulf.

Prince Hassan, who arrived in Bonn Sunday on a six-day visit to Germany, also discussed with Mr. Kohl the issue of the over 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel and Jordanian-German relations.

Prince Hassan lauded Jordanian-German relations and expressed appreciation for the German government's continued support for the Kingdom in economic, scientific and technological fields.

Prince Hassan also met with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and discussed with him the role of Europe in general and the role of Germany in particular in supporting the Middle East peace process.

The Crown Prince stressed the need for Germany to view the Middle East and the Mediterranean regions as a one region since the regional political elements are inter-related, whether in terms of security, energy or human resources.

He also underlined the importance of implementing unified standards in tackling the region's problems so as to reach a just conception of security and regional cooperation in the Middle East.

Mr. Kinkel expressed his government's appreciation for His Majesty King Hussein's leading and positive role in dealing with the region's issues. In an interview with Jordan Television, Prince Hassan said he carried an invitation to non-governmental organisations to take part in an Asian-Arab meeting due to be held in Amman.

Prince Hassan told JTV that although he sprained his ankle while in London, he will carry out his full programme in Germany. He was seen on television walking with the help of crutches.

Prince Hassan commended the hospitality in which he was received in his visit to Germany, the first since the unification of West and East Germany.

Prince Hassan also met with ambassadors of Arab and Muslim states in Bonn. At the meeting,

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## Arabs question 'double standard' in application of U.N. resolutions

Combined agency dispatches

THE LATEST ALLIED attacks against Iraq were met with renewed bluster from Baghdad and questions in other Arab states about why American resolve to enforce U.N. resolutions did not extend to Israel and Bosnia.

Arab countries, many of which supported the U.S.-led drive to boot Iraq out of Kuwait two years ago, complained about a double standard of attacking Iraq while Western powers shy away from military force to aid Muslims in Bosnia or sanctions to force Israel to take back Palestinians expelled to Lebanon.

The Arab League, in the strongest Arab reaction so far to military strikes on Iraq, urged the U.S.-led allies to show restraint in the attacks, which Iraq says have killed at least 43 people since last Wednesday.

The league also called on Baghdad to quickly withdraw its police units from Kuwait.

"The Arab League rejects the use of force to solve conflicts

between countries and regrets the policy of escalation against Iraq ... which extended to include bombings of Iraqi civilian targets inside Baghdad, inflicting civilian casualties among the brotherly Iraqi people," it said in a statement.

"The (league) stresses the need to exercise self-restraint and resort to dialogue. At the same time, it asks Iraq to quickly withdraw its police units from Kuwaiti territory and to respect the sovereignty and independence of Kuwait which is also a member of the Arab League," it added.

The league urged the international community not to use double standards in applying U.N. Security Council resolutions in order not to "cause a loss of confidence and trigger negative reactions in the Arab and Islamic worlds."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa said his country continued to demand "respect for international legitimacy," from Iraq. The allied assaults were conde-

mned by Libya and Iran and praised by Israel.

In the Arab World, however, the fear of Iraq that built the U.S.-Arab Gulf war alliance was offset by the feeling that President George Bush was overstepping his U.N. mandate in renewed raids on Iraq.

Labib Kambawi, a prominent Jordanian political scientist, said Arabs were shifting their pro-Western stance, but falling short of lining up behind Iraq. "They are becoming neither anti-Iraq nor pro-coalition, which is a major development," Mr. Kambawi said, adding the latest attacks were helping Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "rally his people behind him."

Newspapers in Gulf countries said the West was ignoring U.N. Security Council resolutions demanding Israel take back 400 expelled Palestinians and urging protection for Bosnian Muslims. "We deplore this two-faced policy. We have to say this kind

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## Clinton says no change in Iraq policy

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President-elect Bill Clinton, his inaugural festivities obscured by tensions with Iraq, vowed Monday not to change America's hardline policy toward Iraq when he takes office Wednesday.

In remarks to the diplomatic corps, Mr. Clinton said Iraq must understand "that America's resolve during this transition period will not waiver."

"I support the international community's actions designed to bring (Iraq) to full compliance with all United Nations Security Council resolutions," he said.

"The policy of this country (towards Iraq) will remain American policy after Jan. 20," he told the reception at Georgetown University.

Mr. Clinton takes the oath of office at noon (1700 GMT) Wednesday. He arrived in Washington Sunday in a bus caravan, reminiscent of his triumphant campaign, to kick off four days of inaugural festivities, overshadowed somewhat by the third set of U.S.-led attacks on Iraq in six days.

Mr. Clinton told foreign diplomats that his foreign policy would be built on three pillars. First,

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## Gharekhan due in Israel to pursue evictee efforts

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said a U.N. envoy would arrive Tuesday for a third attempt to persuade Israel to repatriate hundreds of Palestinians it expelled to Lebanon.

Speaking on Monday after opposition groups in parliament called for debate on possible U.N. sanctions against Israel, Mr. Rabin told members of his ruling Labour Party that his contacts with the United Nations on the expulsions were continuing. "A United Nations envoy will arrive in Israel on Tuesday evening and I will meet him on Wednesday," he said.

A foreign ministry spokeswoman said U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali's envoy would be Chinmaya Gharekhan, who concluded an unsuccessful mission last week.

Another envoy failed in December to win Israeli compliance with a U.N. Security Council resolution demanding the return of over 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel on Dec. 17.

The evictees remain stranded in an icy land between Israeli and Lebanese lines on the edge of the strip of Lebanese territory occupied by Israel. Neither country will accept responsibility for them.

Dr. Ghali has hinted at sanc-

tions against Israel if it refuses to implement Security Council Resolution 799 by bringing home the expellees.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa warned Sunday the Middle East saw a double standard in the treatment of Israel and Iraq. He failed in talks with Mr. Rabin to persuade him to obey the U.N. demand.

"Israel, which has ignored numerous U.N. resolutions over the years, has expressed the hope Washington will veto any attempt to impose sanctions."

Mr. Gharekhan, the United Nations envoy, was meeting officials of the Red Cross in Geneva Monday to discuss the plight of the Palestinian evictees.

Mr. Gharekhan and officials from the International Committee of the Red Cross were to discuss the issue, a spokesman said.

The ICRC said Sunday it had shelved a plan to use a U.N. helicopter to take medicine to the Palestinians and evacuate nine expellees Israel said were expelled by mistake.

It said the plan was put on hold because of conditions imposed by the United Nations. The Red Cross was now seeking to go by land.

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## Clinton backs Bush action against Iraq as appropriate

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President-elect Bill Clinton said Sunday the U.S. missile strike against Iraq was "appropriate and forceful." His press secretary said the incoming administration was "prepared to continue taking appropriate action until Iraq complies."

Mr. Clinton and his advisers took a tough line towards Iraq as the incoming president arrived in Washington for his inauguration on Wednesday.

Moments after Mr. Clinton's plane pulled up to the Lincoln Memorial for an inaugural festivity, his deputy national security adviser, Sandy Berger, boarded the vehicle to brief the incoming president.

There was no sign of retreat from the military confrontations between the Bush administration and Iraq. "We're prepared to continue taking appropriate action until Iraq complies," said Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers.

Mr. Clinton's communications chief, George Stephanopoulos, said Iraq leader Saddam Hussein "doesn't realise that there is no daylight between President Bush and President Clinton on this."

Mr. Stephanopoulos said Mr. Clinton "is determined to be tough" with the Iraqi leader. "We've been fully briefed. We've been in regular contact," Mr. Clinton said of the increase in tensions that put a shadow over his otherwise festive journey through the Virginia countryside to the nation's capital.

"Saddam Hussein's continuing provocation has been met by appropriate and forceful response. I fully support President Bush's action," Mr. Clinton said. "Saddam Hussein should be very clear in understanding that the current and the next administration are in complete agreement on the necessity of his fully complying with all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions."

Of the shooting down of an Iraqi fighter in the northern Iraq "no-fly" zone, Mr. Myers said: "He supports the action."

Clinton adviser Nancy Soderberg was with him on the bus tour and was keeping in constant touch by phone with Mr. Clinton's national security advisers Anthony Lake and Samuel Berger in Washington.

Mr. Lake, in turn, was keeping in touch with National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and other members of the Bush team.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Mr. Clinton had "not been asked for his approval" of Bush administration actions. "But we have tried to keep him informed every step of the way. President-elect Clinton has the benefit of all the details."

Mr. Clinton has been fully supportive of the Bush administration's handling of the latest Iraqi crisis, including last week's strike on Iraqi anti-aircraft installations.

And, he told reporters last week in Little Rock, that he would not rule out using force against Iraq, nor would he consider normalising relations with Iraq while President Saddam remains as ruler.

Meanwhile, in an interview on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley," Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said: "I think Saddam Hussein's brain is wired differently than the people I deal with on a regular basis."

It doesn't make any sense, from my perspective, what he's doing now. But obviously he's got some rationale."

On Mr. Clinton's comments last week in a New York Times interview that he was not obsessed with President Saddam, Mr. Cheney said:

"There is Saddam Hussein out there and Iraq and the Persian Gulf and it is a problem, but it's one of a long list of problems that Governor Clinton is going to have to deal with as soon as he becomes president on the 20th."

In an NBC interview, Mr. Clinton agreed that President Saddam might be testing him because of his lack of military experience. But he said Iraq and other potential enemies would be "very foolish" to misjudge his intentions to act as commander-in-chief because he did not serve in the military.

**Major: Allies unanimous**

British Prime Minister John Major said there was complete agreement among the allies over Sunday's attack.

Speaking briefly outside 10 Downing Street, the prime minister said the action was taken "after a great deal of consideration, after a great deal of con-

sultation and after giving Iraq every opportunity to comply with the Security Council resolutions."

"They were aware that they were breaking them," he said. "They were blatantly breaking them, they were aware that they were at risk of a response, and after very careful consultation between the allies, there was a response."

Asked by a reporter if he had recommended caution to President Bush, he replied: "No. There's complete agreement between the allies about the nature and timing of the response this evening."

"It's been discussed for two or three days. I've had a number of discussions over the weekend with President Bush. The outcome of those discussions and with (French) President Francois Mitterrand and others was the action taken this evening," Mr. Major said.

The prime minister did not agree with a suggestion that the action might escalate problems in the region.

"The problem originally was the invasion of Kuwait and that came from Iraq," he said. "The disobedience of the Security Council resolutions is by Iraq."

"This is not just occasional disobedience. It is willful disobedience of the requirements of the international community time and time again," he said.

"He has been causing trouble. He has had trouble."

An earlier statement from 10 Downing Street said the action was taken to enforce compliance with Iraq's obligations under U.N. Security Council resolutions.

One of those on the inspection list of the U.N. special commission, it said. "It produced components used in the manufacture of nuclear weapons."

**Japan supports attack**

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday Japan supported the latest U.S. missile attack on Iraq and urged Baghdad to comply with the United Nations' Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

"Japan understands and supports the actions of the United States," Mr. Miyazawa said in a statement in Brunei before boarding a plane for Tokyo.

### MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Tribes settle vendetta in heart of Sanaa

SANAA (AP) — Rival clans of the Hashed tribe of northern Yemen Sunday settled a vendetta right in the heart of the capital Sanaa in an incident involving two killings and the injury of six people. Security officials said that fire was exchanged between the two sides after Sheikh Ali Ahmad Al Somout of the Kharayir region inhabited by the Hashed tribe was killed in his car by followers of Sheikh Ali Hameed Gulaidan, of Beni Qais region, from the same tribe. Shooting then broke out, resulting in one more dead and the injury of two pedestrians, including a woman, said the officials. Four of the policemen who rushed to contain the firing were also injured, they said. Members of both sides were arrested and confessed to the police that there had been a vendetta between the two clans and it was being settled. Members of Yemen's tribes often come down from their mountain strongholds to the capital with their arms and daggers. The country already is wracked by assassination attempts and bomb blasts, mostly due to rivalry between political parties. Attempts by the authorities to curb personal arms have failed. Meanwhile a criminal court began considering the case of a group of 20 people indicted by the state prosecutor for damage to public and private property during the four days of food riots in the country last month. More than 600 people were arrested in those riots protesting the spiralling cost of living. It was not known how many more have or will be indicted.

#### Hamadi accuses Germans of maltreatment

BEIRUT (AP) — Mohammad Ali Hamadi, one of two Lebanese brothers serving prison terms in Germany, accused jail authorities of denying him medical care, according to a letter published here Monday. The accusation came in a brief, handwritten letter published in the leftist Al Safir newspaper. A copy of the envelope was printed to prove authenticity of the letter, dated Jan. 6. Mr. Hamadi accused prison officials of refusing to allow a doctor to examine him and his brother Abbas Hamadi. "Our condition is getting worse as days go by," he wrote. "Jail officials have been ignoring us for quite a long time now." He added that he and his brother were banned from receiving visitors or communicating with the "outside world" and that he managed to sneak the letter out with "sincere friends." The Hamadi family has previously claimed the imprisoned brothers are regularly maltreated and often beaten and tortured by prison authorities and guards. German authorities repeatedly have denied the claims. Mohammad Ali Hamadi was sentenced in May 1987 to life in prison for the 1985 hijacking of a TWA airliner and the killing of a U.S. navy diver. Abbas Hamadi was sentenced to 13 years for the 1987 kidnapping of two Germans, who were freed in Beirut in 1989.

#### Philippines refrains from evacuation order

MANILA (AP) — The Philippine government said Monday it was monitoring the situation in the Gulf but would not evacuate its nationals from Iraq or Kuwait at this time. The U.S. Navy fired Tomahawk missiles Sunday at the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, in the second armed attack for Iraq's alleged failure to abide by U.N. Security Council resolutions. Officials said there were about 32,000 Filipinos in Kuwait and about 70 in Iraq, including 50 serving with the U.N. observer mission along the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border.

#### Kuwait airport passengers escorted to shelter

KUWAIT (R) — Security staff took passengers to air raid shelters for 10 minutes at Kuwait airport Monday. It appeared to be a precaution against a possible Iraqi attack that did not materialise, airport sources said. "The passengers, who had been waiting to board three flights, were taken to the shelters at about 12.50 p.m. GMT and released about 10 minutes later, the sources said. A reported Iraqi Scud missile attack on Saudi Arabia, which Western military sources said was destroyed before it reached its target, caused concern in the neighbouring emirate.

#### Turkish troops kill 5 rebels in southeast

ANKARA (R) — Turkish troops killed five Kurdish separatist rebels, one of them a woman, in a clash on Sunday in the southeastern province of Mardin, a statement from the regional governorate said. The statement gave no other details. Over 5,300 people have been killed in Turkey in the Kurdish Labour Party's nine-year fight for an independent Kurdish state.

#### Israeli court orders extradition

TEL AVIV (AP) — The supreme court Monday paved the way for the extradition of an American couple sought in the United States in the killing of a California secretary. The high court rejected an appeal by Robert and Rochelle Manning seeking to block the extradition. Justice Minister David Levi will sign the extradition order in the next few days, said ministry spokeswoman Etti Eshed. The Mannings and their teenage daughter, Ilana, burst into tears when the ruling was announced, Israel Radio said. Outside the court, supporters of the couple, most of them from the West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba, shoved and cursed photographers taking pictures of the distraught girl. The United States in December 1990 requested the Mannings' extradition on suspicion they were involved in sending a booby-trapped electrical appliance in the 1980 to a computer firm in Manhattan Beach, California. A secretary of the company, Patricia Wilkerson, was killed when the device exploded as she plugged it in. Police have said the bomb apparently was intended for Ms. Wilkerson's boss, Brenda Crouthamel, with whom the Mannings had a private feud. The Mannings moved to Israel about a decade ago, and lived in Kiryat Arba, a centre of hardline Jewish settlers. They Hebraised their names to Reuven and Rachel. They were arrested in March 1991, following the U.S. extradition request. A court approved the extradition in June 1991, and Mr. Manning said at the time the decision amounted to a "death sentence." The couple appealed to the high court. In the 1970s, Mr. Manning was active in the United States in the Jewish Defense League, a Jewish terror group founded by the late Rabbi Meir Kahane. Kahane's son, Benjamin, was among the couple's supporters in the supreme court on Monday.

## Katyushas spark fear among Israelis

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Hundreds of residents of northern Israel searched for gas masks thinking Iraq had launched its first Scud missiles since the 1991 Gulf war.

But the thrush that broke the silence Sunday night were Katyusha rockets fired by guerrillas in Lebanon, military sources said. They caused no damage.

The revival of the Gulf war ritual, when Israelis donned gas masks for fear of Iraqi chemical weapons, underlined the attention paid to the current war of words and missiles.

Developments in the Gulf have been followed closely with Israeli radio stations interrupting broadcasts with updates. But the army said Israelis could go on with life as usual.

"We just think that what the coalition forces are doing is a limited and very focused operation and it is between the coalition forces and Iraq so we are out of it," defence ministry spokesman Oded Ben-Ami said.

He said the United States was keeping leaders of Israel and other Middle East countries informed. The Katyusha rockets Sunday evening set off a scramble for gas masks, said residents in northern Israel who had escaped attacks during the Gulf war.

The conflict has prompted some Israelis to stop putting off replacing their old masks with newer models. The army began the exchange a few months ago. Israel Radio reported that Sunday's rockets caused no damage or injuries.

### Gharekhan

(Continued from page 1)

Lebanon sent reinforcements to government-controlled territory in the south Monday to prevent Israel's militia allies from building a new crossing, security sources said.

The Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia had wanted a new crossing to supply the eastern part of the zone as the old crossing at Zennarya was blocked with mines last month after Israel expelled the Palestinians through it.

The militia brought in bulldozers to remove barricades on a road from the town of Hasbaya in the zone of Minitis village in government-controlled territory.

But Lebanese troops were reinforced at the last checkpoint in government-controlled territory to block the move, they said.

The Lebanese troops closed their last checkpoint at Minitis and were stopping any traffic moving into the area.

### Israelis

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month's anniversary since Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to Lebanon.

Dababesh was shot in the neck while trying to throw a bottle at a soldier next to a mosque in Shati refugee camp in Gaza.

During a funeral march for Dababesh, demonstrators unfurled green-black-red and white Palestinian flags and some held up pictures of the boy, the reports said.

Some mourners threw stones at soldiers who arrived at the scene, the reports said. They reportedly responded with gunfire, wounding another 10 Arabs, leading to the death of Muheisen and Abu Hassira.

Protests also erupted in Rafah in the south of the Gaza Strip where a Palestinian teenager suffered a serious gunshot wound in the chest, and was taken to Tel Hashomer hospital near Tel Aviv, reports said.

## Prince Hassan meets German leaders

(Continued from page 1)

Prince Hassan highlighted Jordan's keenness to preserve human rights through its role in the Arab Thought Forum.

Jordan's perception of the issue of human rights is wider than that of the United Nations, which focuses on the issue in a narrow manner without giving due attention to the political and social factors, he said.

He called on the envoys to work on correcting the image of Arabs and Muslims abroad.

The Crown Prince also had a meeting with a group of Jordanian physicians and students living in Bonn. Discussions at the meeting focused on the role of the educated Jordanian youth in

building the future of the Kingdom.

Prince Hassan proposed the establishment of a data link between expatriate Jordanians and their homeland to benefit from their experience in the national development process.

On Sunday, Prince Hassan met with Hans Dietrich Genscher, former foreign minister and leading political figure.

The Crown Prince arrived in Bonn Sunday following visits to the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

Prince Hassan described the two visits as very fruitful and said they were part of preparations for holding a human rights summit in Vienna in June.

## Arabs question 'double standard'

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of double standard is not worthy of a superpower, no matter how much of a tyrant Saddam Hussein is," said the English-language Gulf News in Dubai.

Criticism of the United States was not voiced by all Arabs, however.

The two sides of Arab opinion were represented by an editorial in another Dubai daily, the Kaleej Times.

"Saddam Hussein was asking for it," said the Kaleej Times.

The independent Algerian newspaper Le Journal said President Bush, "who leaves office Wednesday, will enter history and man's memory as a vindictive and petty man."

Libya, which stayed on the sidelines during the Gulf war two years ago, said the latest attacks "constitute an escalation of tension in the area and the return of the old colonialism in a new form."

In Istanbul, Turkey's Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin urged Iraq to comply with United Nations resolutions and asked the two allies and the Baghdad government to avoid increasing tensions in the Gulf.

"Putting aside the questions whether Iraq is right or wrong, it must accept all U.N. resolutions and also stop flying in northern and southern Iraq," Mr. Cetin told a meeting of the Turkish-American Business Council.

"The allies and the Baghdad government must show restraint to prevent the tensions from getting out of hand."

Egyptians interviewed by Reuters said they felt the air strike was not justified in the way the U.S.-led operation to drive Iraqi troops out of Kuwait had been in 1991.

"This is becoming an American cowboy film," said Mohammed Elbari, a messenger.

"America is behaving as if it is the policeman of the area. It does what it likes without any consideration or restriction. These attacks are not justified."

"At the beginning, it was clear why the allies attacked Iraq — because it invaded Kuwait," said Salah Izzat, an Egyptian bank clerk.

"But now there are no real reasons. America wants to destroy Iraq. It is dictating its own law on the whole world."

In Tunis, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) spokesman condemned the latest attack on Iraq.

"The PLO condemns these repeated acts of aggression ... at a

time the U.S. administration prevents the implementation of international resolutions on Israel which violates all the U.N. and Security Council resolutions and all the international conventions," the Palestinian agency Wafa quoted the spokesman saying.

A Foreign Ministry statement in Tunis said Tunisia was "deeply concerned about renewed tension and violence in the Gulf area and expresses its strong regret for their resulting in civilian casualties among the sons of our brother Iraqi people."

Tunisia felt U.N. resolutions "should be implemented with the same standard whatever parties were involved," the statement said, citing Israel's rejection of the Security Council resolution demanding the return of expelled Palestinians.

It reaffirmed Tunisia's respect for the sovereignty of Kuwait and its right to live in security and peace but added that the same principle applied to Iraq.

### Clinton says

(Continued from page 1)

we will make the economic security of our own nation a primary goal of our foreign policy," he said.

"Here in America, we cannot sustain an active engagement abroad without a sound economy at home. And yet

we cannot prosper at home unless we are engaged abroad."

Second, U.S. foreign policy will be based on a restructuring of the military "to meet new and continuing threats to our security interests and the international peace."

"We will continue to prudently reduce defence spending, but potential aggressors should be clear about American resolve," he said.

"We do not relish the prospect of military force, but when necessary we will not shrink from using it when all appropriate diplomatic measures have been exhausted."

Mr. Clinton said the third guiding principle was "rooted in the democratic principles and institutions which unite our own country and of course (to which) so many now around the world aspire."

"The spread of democratic values has given the hope of freedom to millions all across the world, who have endured decades of oppression," he said.

## Zarga deputies present their demands

(Continued from page 1)

would reactivate a special ministerial committee set up under the chairmanship of the minister of transport to handle the problem of state-owned land in the Zarga region.

Squatters have built homes on state-owned land and efforts for settling the outstanding issue have failed to produce any result.

The delegation also demanded that the government regard Ruseifa as a separate district in,

view of the growing number of people and to create a semi-district in Birien and another in its western side. The prime minister said he would study the request.

Sharif Zeid said all factories located in Zarga Governorate, especially the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, should contribute to the development of municipalities in the region and help them to solve environmental problems.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 731111	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Michael Vaillant
18:30	La Famille Ramadan
19:00	News in Fitch
19:15	Les images de Chateaux
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Perfect Strangers
21:10	The Driverless Dinosaur
21:30	News in English
22:20	Prime Suspect
PRAYER TIMES	
05:10	Fair
16:31	(Sunrise) Duha
17:46	Dhuhr
18:37	'Asr
17:51	Maghrib
18:22	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swidish, Tel. 810/40	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637/85	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 6245/90	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637/40	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrestrial Church Tel. 623366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 629543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 712561	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 711751	
Assiout International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
Church of the Redeemer — Tel. 638526	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
It will be clear and cold and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	0/10
Aqaba	7/17
Desert	-3/12
Jordan Valley	6/15
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

<b>AMMAN:</b>																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		</
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Jordan's high birthrate poses problems for the future (file photo)

## Birth rate threatens Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Population growth at its current rate in Jordan "may finally lead to the destruction of the Jordanian civilisation and even to its disappearance," according to Walter Rudel, representative of the German Friedrich-Naumann Foundation (GNF), who delivered the opening speech at Monday's seminar on "Population Growth and the Environment."

"If we compared the number of inhabitants in Jordan, which amount to four million at present, to the available resources and agricultural lands, we can deduce the bulk of the problem facing the country," Mr. Rudel said.

Mr. Rudel warned of the serious consequences challenging the world if population growth continues at the same rate: "There will be more poverty, more famines, more natural catastrophes, more social disturbances and more wars," he said. "What is likely to happen in the near future is a total or partial destruction of the world as a result of an atomic war between the poor, over-populated countries in the south and the relatively advanced peoples in the north," Mr. Rudel said.

According to statistics of a United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) study, the number of inhabitants in the world will reach 14 billion by the year 2050.

The study, conducted by Lina

Obeidat of the UNFPA, shows that the rate of fertility in developing countries will increase from 37 to 45 per cent in the year 2000; and to 61 per cent in the year 2025. Statistics for the year 1990 also show that around one billion people are living in slums, lacking even basic health services, where the rate of unemployment is high; inhabitants suffer from malnutrition and permanent diseases in addition to crime and environmental pollution which are constant features of such regions.

The study points to the serious implications of over-population, especially in relation to water resources and their uses. Ms. Obeidat indicates that while developing countries currently suffer from water shortages, they will also face major problems hindering their progress in all fields.

As for Jordan, the study says it is considered one of the poorest countries in terms of water resources: the individual's annual water consumption does not exceed 165 cubic metres compared to 285 cubic metres in Israel.

Dr. Ali As'ad, a representative of the Ministry of Health who participated in the seminar, stressed in his working paper upon the disastrous consequences and related illnesses that result from environmental pollution.

Dr. Fadwah Touqan, a Beirut University professor and the advisor to the Palestinian Delegation to the multilateral peace

talks on environment, said the Palestinian strategy on environment must depend upon the concentration on international and regional dimensions as well as on the relation of the environment to stability and security.

"In the occupied territories, population growth is directly related to immigration and to the repressive practices of the Israeli authorities, which result in the confiscation of Palestinian territories and the loss of control over the water resources," she said.

Dr. Touqan said a more active role by international organisations directly involved in environmental issues is required; and there must be a demand for their presence in the occupied territories. She stressed that there must be adequate help to Palestinians in establishing institutions and other facilities that are concerned with environmental matters.

The seminar, held at the Amra Hotel, was jointly sponsored by the Jordan Society for the Control of Environmental Pollution (JSCEP) and the GNF.

## JBA gears up for elections

By Odeh Odeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As the date for elections of the Jordanian Bar Association (JBA) approaches, more lawyers have nominated themselves as candidates for president or board member.

Jawad Younes, Fahmi Abu Hweij, Omar Damra, Asaad Kamal Al Saadi, Isa Ismail Mahadin, Dr. Kamal Naser and Khalaf Masaadeh have announced their candidacy for president.

According to association sources, there are no women candidates today, but unconfirmed reports say Zahrah Sharabati and Nivin Shafiq Nabil might declare their candidacy shortly.

Altogether 2,150 lawyers are eligible to vote in the election which is due in March.

Present Bar Association president Mr. Walid Abdul Hadi will not be running again; he has already served as president for two successive terms, association sources said.

They said that a total of 16 lawyers from Jordan and the occupied West Bank have said they will run for the two-year term of board member.

According to association sources, heated rivalry is expected between the Democratic Bloc, the Islamists and the Professional Bloc.

More than 1000 lawyers are demanding drastic changes in the association structure and orientation, with a view to giving more attention to the professional rather than the political trends the sources said.

At least 257 West Bank lawyers are eligible to vote in the election and have already elected Mursi Hajjir from Jerusalem to serve on the 10 member board.

## JD 2.8m to finance electrification projects

IRBID (J.T.) — The Irbid District Electricity Company (IDEC) has allocated JD 2.8 million to finance its expansion projects and develop existing power networks during 1993.

Company Director General, Abdul Raouf Al Sheikh, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the plans entail supplying electric power to new industrial, agricultural, educational and other developmental sites such as water and irrigation projects and the villages which are included in the new plans for electrification this year.

Mr. Sheikh said by the end of last year the company had succeeded in supplying electricity to 99 per cent of the areas under its concession in the Irbid governorate.

The area under IDEC concession includes the Irbid and Mafrqa governorates with their towns and settlements such as Al Kharijeh, Al Masarrarah, Haditha, Zeimeh and Rahamat — all areas which have been supplied with electricity so far.

Mr. Sheikh said plans are under way to supply power to villages and settlements in the Ajloun, Jerash and Subeihi areas, as well as the King Talal Dam

environs. He said work is also under way to set up a 33 kilovolt, 35 kilometre network and a transformer station at Safawi, and work was completed on a station at Al Hassan Industrial City near Irbid.

Referring to the difficulties facing the company, Mr. Sheikh said the company had to deal with damages caused to the electric power network in its area last winter and to cope with the increasing number of new subscribers. Last year, the company erected 2,150 high voltage pylons and laid 29 kilometres of underground and overhead cables to serve new subscribers who numbered 5,046, Mr. Sheikh said.

Mr. Sheikh said the company currently owns 1,700 kilometres of cable network which is being fed with 33 kilovolts of power. He said the company has recruited skilled staff and gathered sufficient experience to handle most of the damages that could affect the network during the present winter season. He said the company offers services to 125,000 subscribers and its dues are mostly collected on time, enabling the company to pursue its plans on schedule.

## Agriculture Committee hears out poultry farmers

AMMAN (Petra) — Poultry farm owners Monday called on the government to ban the imports of poultry production from abroad in order to reduce marketing problems facing them in the local market.

In a meeting with the Agriculture Committee of the Lower House of Parliament, owners of poultry farms and fodder processing plants in Jordan stressed the need to swiftly address their problems, underlining the need to reduce the prices of animal feed and veterinary medicines.

They also urged the government to increase the number of slaughter houses and refrigerated stores to absorb the market surplus of poultry production.

The poultry farmers also called for the creation of a union or federation for poultry farm owners,

and for examining and controlling the quality of veterinary vaccinations and medicines as well as fodder before supplying poultry farmers with them.

Chairman of the Agriculture Committee Mohammad Al Alawneh said the committee's meeting with the owners of poultry farms and fodder processing plants followed a tour by the committee members of various agricultural sectors around the Kingdom.

Later in the day, the committee had a meeting with farmers from the Al Shafa area who demanded the establishment of a sugar processing plant.

They also called for establishing a general union for Jordanian farmers and the cancellation of interest rates on agricultural loans.

## Jordanians speak out against attack on Iraq

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians Monday reacted with vehemence to the latest allied attacks against Iraq and denounced what they saw as Arab connivance with the United States in not only trying to eliminate all possibilities of Iraq re-emerging as a strong military power in the region but also in helping President George Bush to strike at Iraq as a memento of a personal feud against President Saddam Hussein.

Many Jordanians who do not necessarily agree with the policies of the Saddam government in Baghdad also appeared to have been influenced into adopting a strong anti-Western position in the wake of the massive missile attack on Baghdad Sunday night and the air raids in the north and south that followed Monday.

The main consideration among middle-of-the-road Jordanians was what one of them described as the "irrefutable evidence" of the Western double-standards in dealing with the Middle East.

"Where is the determination and anxiety of the U.S. and its cronies to enforce the U.N. resolutions on the Palestinian problem?" asked Mahmoud Taha, a jeweller. "Let us forget for a moment (Security Council resolutions) 242 and 338 and look at 799. What is being done about it?"

Resolution 799 condemns Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of over 400 Palestinians to south Lebanon and demands that the Jewish state allow their immediate return home to the occupied territories. Israel has ruled out compliance with the resolution.

"To throw massive military power at Iraq in the name of the U.N. while keeping a blind eye towards Israel's defiance of U.N. decisions is nothing but double-standards and hypocrisy," he said.

"I am not a fan of Saddam," said Mohammad Mursi, a ready-made garments merchant in downtown Amman. "Saddam made a lot of mistakes and made us all look like stupid fools with the way he handled the Gulf crisis. I don't know what he (Saddam) wants this time. Anyway he should not have provoked the Americans," he said.

"But it is not acceptable that the Americans and Europeans come to the region with a free hand and hit at Iraq with impunity," he said. "After all, Iraq is an Arab country and the Iraqi people are our brothers and sisters."

Tawfiq Kweik, a bank clerk, said he had "no doubt whatsoever that what we are seeing today is the final scene in the personal feud between Bush and Saddam."

Mr. Kweik concedes that the Iraqi leadership could have behaved in a manner unacceptable to the West's interpretation of U.N. Security Council resolutions, but he argued that "it was the pretext that Bush was waiting for to hit Iraq as a departing souvenir to Saddam."

"What amazes me," he said, "is how the Gulf Arab leaders are lending their resources and territory as staging grounds for attacks against Iraq when the possibility remains open that an end to the crisis could be found with (President-elect Bill) Clinton in office."

Basbir Moriadi, a university student, believes that Iraq should collect all its forces and "retake Kuwait and to hell with the consequences."

"I know it will not be easy, and the price Iraq has to pay will be very heavy," said the bearded student of Islamic law. "But if there is to be a new conflict let



Pro-Iraqi sympathies among Jordanians, who overwhelmingly backed Saddam Hussein during the Gulf crisis, seem to have been boosted by the recent U.S. attacks on Iraq (file photo)

the Iraqis make sure that the Kuwaiti regime is not spared either."

"Let Saddam go down if that is indeed the price to pay," he said. "Then he can claim to be the hero of the Arab World since he would have changed the picture of the Arab World by a new invasion of Kuwait."

Qasem Bashir, a taxi driver, said he was heartened by Iraq's sole missile attack against Dharan, Saudi Arabia, after Monday's air raids. Some reports said the missile was intercepted and destroyed before hitting the ground. Other reports said there was no such attack at all.

"It is a message to everyone," said Mr. Bashir. "Saddam is saying that he still has the firepower to hit the Saudis as well as others, including Israel, and could unleash it if he wants it."

Musa Abu Bilal, a Palestinian schoolteacher who was forced out of post-occupation Kuwait in 1991, lamented that "Arabs do not seem to understand what Iraq is trying to do."

"I listened to every word Saddam said (in a nationwide speech marking the second anniversary of the start of the Gulf war) Sunday," said Mr. Abu Bilal. "The man made perfect sense in his review of the status of the Arab World today and the way

some of the Arab leaders were serving Western interests at Arab expense."

In his lengthy speech Sunday, President Saddam lashed out at the ruling Al Sabah family in Kuwait and other unnamed Arab regimes for "serving their masters' interests" and caring little for the "interest of their own people."

He called on the Arab masses to rally behind Iraq and seek "justice" for themselves.

"But Arab leaders appear to be deaf," said Mr. Abu Bilal. "Either they do not understand what Iraq is trying to say or they don't want to understand since such understanding is not compatible with the interests of their regimes."

Several Jordanians argued that the Iraqi leadership should have averted any crisis with the U.S. or the U.N.

"The blow that was delivered to Iraq in the Gulf war was devastating and killed all our hopes that the Iraqis could have posed a serious threat to Israel that could balance the regional military balance," said Jamal Al Turk, a grocer.

"Saddam should have kept a low profile and tried to salvage whatever he could of his military power without risking a new confrontation," he said.

change of data and information, Dr. Haddadin said.

Although Jordan is in no danger at present, the Kingdom is taking precautionary measures to deal with the situation, Dr. Haddadin said. He said the Armed Forces, the Royal Jordanian Air Force, the Public Security Department, and the Border Police have joined forces in the effort to stem a locust invasion this spring.

reports of swarms of locusts invading southern Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia, but information about fighting the pest in those areas was unavailable because of the security situation in Africa at present.

Jordan, Syria, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Eritrea discussed the ongoing measures to combat the pest and recommended continued and close coordination in order to benefit from the experience of the other countries.

Swarms of locusts were also reported to have invaded part of northern Yemen, but are now under control there also, Dr. Haddadin said.

He said there are unconfirmed

## Locusts under control, no invasion likely

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan joined five Arab countries in a one-day emergency meeting in Cairo to discuss measures of stemming locust invasions in the region.

Dr. Hani Haddadin, of the Ministry of Agriculture, who represented Jordan at the meeting organised in the past week by the Rome-based U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), told the Jordan Times the locust situation is under control and Jordan was in no immediate danger of any locust invasion. The locusts are located south of Jordan and extend south to Jazan, along the coast of the Red Sea.

Dr. Haddadin said, Saudi Arabian authorities, who are well-equipped and experienced in combating the pest, have been involved in fighting off 21 swarms of locusts reported to have invaded the western coasts of the Saudi kingdom, Dr. Haddadin said. He said Jordan is well protected from the desert locusts by the cold weather currently affecting the country, and by the experienced handling of the situation on the part of the Saudi authorities.

Swarms of locusts were also reported to have invaded part of northern Yemen, but are now under control there also, Dr. Haddadin said.

He said there are unconfirmed

change of data and information, Dr. Haddadin said.

Although Jordan is in no danger at present, the Kingdom is taking precautionary measures to deal with the situation, Dr. Haddadin said. He said the Armed Forces, the Royal Jordanian Air Force, the Public Security Department, and the Border Police have joined forces in the effort to stem a locust invasion this spring.

Swarms of locusts were also reported to have invaded part of northern Yemen, but are now under control there also, Dr. Haddadin said.

He said there are unconfirmed

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF



#### Prince Abdullah visits General Headquarters

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein visited Monday the General Headquarters of the Jordanian Armed Forces where he had a meeting with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb. Prince Abdullah also visited the Public Security Department (PSD) and met with its Director Major-General Fadel Ali Fuhaid. Prince Abdullah was briefed on the role of the PSD in serving citizens and maintaining national security.

#### Health committee to visit hospitals

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Committee at the Lower House of Parliament held a meeting Monday under the chairmanship of Deputy Saad Haddadin. The committee plans to visit various hospitals and health centres in the Kingdom, Mr. Haddadin said. He said the committee will inform Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh of its plans.

#### Jordan, Morocco to follow-up on trade prospects

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian-Moroccan follow-up committee entrusted with overcoming obstacles to trade exchanges between the two countries will meet in Amman Tuesday. The committee will discuss means of implementing a trade and tourism agreement signed by Jordan and Morocco last year. Members of the Moroccan side in the committee will hold talks with officials from the public and private sectors on ways of promoting trade exchange between the two countries. The committee meetings will be co-chaired by Secretary General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Marwan Awad and Secretary General of the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism Rashad Ben Hilal.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Latin American Countries in France" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Modernist Still Life Photographed" at the

### American Centre.

### FILMS

- ★ German film entitled "Der Schimmelreiter" at the Goethe Institute — 8 p.m.
- ★ German film entitled "Berlin Chamissplatz" at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

وزارة الاشغال العامة والاسكان  
دائرة العطاءات الحكومية  
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING  
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE



### Ministry of Public Works & Housing Government Tenders Directorate Announcement Invitation To Tender No. (5/93) Fuahis Waste Water Treatment Plant

Local contractors and experienced contractors from member states of the European Community are invited to participate in this tender and are requested to contact the Government Tenders Directorate, Ministry of Public Works & Housing Amman, Jordan to receive tender documents starting from 19th of Jan. 1993 in accordance with the following terms:

#### 1. Scope of work:

- The construction of a sewage treatment facilities, consisting of the following major items:
  - a- Waste water treatment plant for Fuahis and Mahas.
  - b- Two lifting stations.
  - c- Main transmission pipes and syphons.

#### 2. Classification and field of local contractors:- Sewage Treatment Plant First Class separately or (water and sewage + electro-mechanical) First or second class.

#### 3. The Project is financed partially from European Investment Bank.

- 4. Last date for documents purchase is 27.2.1993.
- 5. Tenders price JD 300.00 per set, non-refundable.
- 6. Offers shall be submitted to the Government Tenders Directorate before 13:30 local time on Tuesday 9.3.1993.

Chairman, Central Tenders Committee  
Government Tenders Directorate  
Eng. Basheer Al-Jaghbeer

وزارة الاشغال العامة والاسكان  
دائرة العطاءات الحكومية  
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING  
GOVERNMENT TENDERS DIRECTORATE



### Ministry of Public Works & Housing Government Tenders Directorate General Tenders Announcement Invitation To Tender No. (2/93)

International firms, specialised in telecommunication, who are interested in participating in this tender are requested to contact the Government Tenders Directorate at the Ministry of Public Works & Housing Amman, Jordan to receive tender documents starting from 19/1/1993 and in accordance with the following terms:

#### 1. Scope of work:

This project implies the provision and installation of:

- One main digital switch in Mafrqa city with capacity of (5304).
- (14) small switching nodes.
- New combined National and International Switching Centre (NISC) in Amman with capacity of (300) PCM systems.
- Digital transmission equipment.

#### 2. The project is partially financed by the Islamic Development Bank.

- 3. Each tender price JD(1000) non-refundable.
- 4. Last date for purchase of tender documents is March 1, 1993.
- 5. Site visit on 8th of March 1993. Tenderers, who wish to participate in this visit shall apply not later, than one week from the said date.
- 6. Offers shall be submitted to the Government Tenders Directorate before 13:30 local time on Tuesday 20th of April 1993.

Chairman, Central Tenders Committee  
Government Tenders Directorate  
Eng. Basheer Al-Jaghbeer



## Jordan Times

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## Lessons not only learnt but also to be remembered

IN EXPRESSING deep anger over the "sorrowful developments" in the Gulf between Iraq and the Western allies, His Majesty King Hussein was echoing the feelings of millions of Arabs who can accept no justification for the continued U.S. and allied attacks on Iraq.

These are moments of sorrow and anger, the King said. Indeed they are.

We direct a great deal of this anger at the United States and its coalition partners which seem to have ignored all calls of reason to save this conflict-prone area yet another bloody, definitely unnecessary, episode.

Renewed military confrontation between Iraq and the Western allies will serve the interest of none, except probably, the personal ambitions and grudges of outgoing U.S. President George Bush, who has crossed the boundaries of common sense, reason and international legality.

The Arabs are mistaken if they believe the horrible repercussions of a new war in the Gulf will not reverberate beyond Iraq to shake the stability of the whole region. Their silence is deafening. Their lack of action is yet another proof of the shaky foundation upon which the whole Arab system is precariously balanced.

Hence is the soundness of His Majesty's call on the Arabs to address this unfortunate situation as one nation and end the fragmentation and destruction of the Arab World. The Arabs have suffered enough for their failure to resolve the crisis when it first erupted in August 1990. They will reap a more bitter harvest if they do not bury the differences of the past and act collectively to contain the tension and peacefully settle the crisis.

The double standards of the Western-dominated United Nations in addressing the conflicts of the area sets out in sharp relief that the U.S. and its allies are launching their missiles on Baghdad to promote their own interests, not international legitimacy.

United Nations resolutions and international law carry little weight with the United States if they do not promote its interests. Images of more than 400 Palestinians suffering in a makeshift camp in southern Lebanon remove the humane mask behind which Washington, London and Paris try to hide their attacks on Iraq. Thousands of deaths in Bosnia-Herzegovina only further expose the hypocritical nature of Mr. Bush's new world order.

Driven by personal vendetta and unchecked by a world that has shed away from effectively protesting his action, Mr. Bush seems determined to continue his war against Iraq until his last minute in power.

The world is fortunate therefore that a changing of the guard will bring a new American president to the White House. We can only hope that President-elect Bill Clinton will have a totally new approach to the conflict in the Gulf — an approach guided by sound reasoning, unmarred by personal grudges and aimed at defusing a crisis that has the potential of driving a whole region into the abyss of total chaos.

In the meantime, the Arabs should try and take their fate into their own hands, put their house in order and find a peaceful solution to a conflict in which they could be the only losers.

The events of 1992 August are not too far to remember; the lessons are too important to be ignored.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE DOWNING of one Iraqi plane in the north and of another one in the south can by no means change the situation and will not compensate Mr. Bush for his downfall this week, said Al Rai Arabic daily Monday. The destruction of residential areas in Baghdad, Basra and Mosul is no victory or something that can honour any nation or leader, said the daily in its comments on the resumption of U.S. air raids on Iraqi cities. The Arabs do hope that President-elect Bill Clinton is now aware of the fact that destruction of other countries can by no means be beneficial to his country or contribute towards enhancing peace and justice in the world, said the daily. Indeed, Mr. Bush's acts of aggression in his last days in office can by no means be regarded as a heroic feat worthy of respect, the paper continued. It said that Mr. Bush's lies and those of his British and French allies, concerning the situation in Iraq, can by no means be beneficial to the Western world because arrogance and crimes can never destroy the will of nations. The paper said that by launching raids on Iraq in his last days, Mr. Bush is trying to find solace for his ignominious ouster from the White House. Mr. Bush and his country consider the raids as military victories when they are, in fact, political defeats for the Western world at large, the paper said. These air raids, it concluded, can never brighten the image of the ugly president and his allies in the world.

Comparing Mr. Bush to the Roman Emperor Nero, Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily said that the outgoing president seems to be determined not to leave the White House without displaying all his black hatred against humanity through committing barbaric crimes against the Iraqi people. The paper said that Mr. Bush seems to be afflicted with the Nazi hysteria instigating him to launch aggression, killing innocent people and destroying residential areas. It said that the bloodbath Mr. Bush is trying to create in Iraq is bound to deepen the hatred of the Arab masses for the Americans and their allies who are intent on carrying out destruction and killing of people. The hysterical behaviour of Mr. Bush and his allies, and the air raids on Iraqi cities, constitute a crime against humanity in general and the Arab Nation in particular. The paper said that the U.S. rockets which continue to fall on Baghdad and other towns are burning what the Western world calls the international legitimacy and destroying the so called new world order which Mr. Bush had been bragging about. The paper said that Mr. Bush is acting like Nero did when he burnt Rome and like Hitler who left behind him the worst pictures of barbarism printed deep in the world's history.

## Commentators around world echo U.S. hopes, fears about Clinton

By Anita Snow  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — On the eve of President-elect Clinton's inauguration, political commentators around the globe are echoing U.S. hopes and fears about the man who will lead the world's last remaining superpower.

In places as diverse as Colombia, Russia and Saudi Arabia, they fear Mr. Clinton's relative inexperience in the foreign arena and the challenges that will face him from abroad — famine and strife in Somalia; war in former Yugoslavia; Iraq's defiance of the West; wobbly democracies in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Their hopes spring from the demise of a global East-West conflict that dictated U.S. foreign policy for a generation; the end of the reign of the Republican Party that came to be associated with that conflict; and Mr. Clinton's youthfulness, which reminds many of them of President John F. Kennedy.

L'Express, a leading French newsweekly, spoke of the excitement, the "fevered mood" swirling around Washington with the approach of Wednesday's inauguration, when Mr. Clinton, 46, will be sworn in as the nation's first Democratic president in 12 years.

French commentators have gushed over Mr. Clinton since he defeated incumbent Republican President Bush in the November election. At that time, Le Point, a leading news weekly, described Mr. Clinton as having "the vitality of a young buffalo, and the well-articulated rhetoric of a George Town and Oxford overachiever" and having "a conciliatory and centrist" tone.

Parallels between Mr. Clinton and Mr. Kennedy were drawn in

Excerpts from commentators around the world on the eve of President-elect Clinton's inauguration:

"In sending American planes to bomb positions of Iraq's air-defence batteries and sending a marines battalion to Kuwait, George Bush is leaving for Bill Clinton a legacy he is unable to reject. ... Clinton will find it not easy to leave Kuwait even if he strongly wants this, as it will be not easy for him to extricate himself from the situation in Somalia. One U.S. marine has already died there, another one was wounded, but Bush is teaching his young successor a lesson of political wisdom: in order to divert U.S. public attention from the death of an American, it is necessary to deal a victorious blow in another part of the world." — *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, Moscow.

"The swearing of that oath will turn Mr. Clinton from a local fixer to the most powerful man in the world. He will become the ultimate insider, appraised each day by other insiders (congressmen, the television networks, the works) on his ability to play the power game. The logical conclusion is that the United States needs a leader able to pose as an ordinary middle American, but who is really a ruthless, sophisticated Washington player. In Mr. Clinton, they have probably got him. Not the fresh-faced symbol of a return to lost innocence who will be paraded before the world next week but a chilly, hardened ruler. Not so much Hope, Arkansas, as experience, D.C." — *The Independent* of London.

"With days left before Bill Clinton becomes president, the route that North America's foreign policy will take continues to be unknown. The apparent fragility of Clinton as leader of the world's superpower could give us many surprises. ... The Democrats have spent so many years out of the White House, and the results of the last Democrat in office, Jimmy Carter, were so poor that their return to power has stirred understandable fears. The geopolitical world and the role of the United States in it has changed significantly. How much maturity have the Democrats gained in this arena after spending 12 years on the street, looking in through the window at the Republican banquet?" — *Tiempo*, Bogota, Colombia.

"The rupture that the move to power of a Democrat after 12 years of Republicans represents is not the only thing that explains the atmosphere of excitement. ... The retreat of the Bush-Baker duo to the Clinton-Christopher couple could even incite certain people to scepticism. So where is the fevered mood coming from? ... These moments often coincide with post-war periods: civil, world or cold. ... The U.S. needs what one observer called 'the values of Frank Capra films: The will to be restrained in community, personal and private interests; and the desire to do good simply because that's the thing to do.' (Clinton) does not want to miss his 'American moment.'" — *L'Express*, Paris.

an opinion piece Wednesday in The Independent of London. It portrays Mr. Clinton as a tough, clever and sophisticated

Washington insider with a regular guy's persona — a combination it maintains America needs in a leader.

"The logical conclusion is that the United States needs a leader able to pose as an ordinary middle American, but who is really a ruthless, sophisticated Washington player," it says. "In Mr. Clinton, they have probably got him. Not the fresh-faced symbol of a return to lost innocence who will be paraded before the world next week but a chilly, hardened ruler. Not so much Hope, Arkansas, as experience, D.C."

But with the hope is the fear — fear that Mr. Clinton won't be tough enough on leaders like Iraq's Saddam Hussein or countries like Yugoslavia. Or that he won't be wise or experienced enough to deal with unexpected surprises in a rapidly changing world.

"Saddam is not going to leave the White House when (president) Bush does," a columnist noted in the Saudi-financed daily Al Hayat.

"Clinton will find it not easy to leave Kuwait even if he strongly wants this, as it will be not easy for him to extricate himself from the situation in Somalia," an article in the Moscow daily Komsomolskaya Pravda pointed out Friday.

"With days left before Bill Clinton becomes president, the route that North America's foreign policy will take continues to be unknown," the daily newspaper El Tiempo of Bogota, Colombia, said this week.

"The geopolitical world and the role of the United States in it has changed significantly. How much maturity have the Democrats gained in this arena after spending 12 years on the street, looking in through the window at the Republican banquet?"

Rami Khouri's regular Tuesday column will appear this week on Thursday.

## Bombings isolate Kuwait from Arabs

By Robert Fisk

Behind the palace walls, among the banks, you can see the launchers of the Patriot missiles. The Americans are protecting their most favoured emir, and his immensely wealthy people.

"There is no reason for fear," Prince Saud Al Sabah, the Kuwaiti Information Minister, proclaimed on Jan. 14. And yet there was that tell-tale printed sheet pushed under my hotel door after breakfast. "Dear Guest," it announced, "the evacuation alarm will be tested to day, Jan. 14, at 12 noon. Please do not be alarmed it is only a necessary exercise." That last, unhappy conjunction of two words told the whole story.

Not that anyone here still believes that Saddam Hussein would reinstate. This time last year Kuwaiti television was broadcasting programmes on civil defence. These past two days, the Kuwaitis have been sufficed with costume dramas and retransmissions of CNN news broadcasts from Baghdad. Yesterday's Arab Times gave almost as much space to a partial transcript of the alleged Prince Charles-Camilla Parker Bowles tape as it did to the text of Maria Fitzwater's White House announcement of the bombing of Iraq. But you can't shake off that little edge of uncertainty.

Take Major Saleh Adoub, in the old police station near the Al Salam supermarket. He wanted to help arrange our forthcoming trip to the Iraqi border, to make sure the Kuwaiti checkpoints did not prevent us from reaching the frontier at Abdali. "But don't stray off the main road, don't go into the desert," he warned with a big, concerned smile. "Saddam is crazy and the Iraqis are still around up there. If you stray over the border, you may end up in Baghdad for a few years."

There was nothing wrong with the advice. It was the memory that played tricks. Two years and six weeks ago, I had passed this very police station on the day of Kuwait's liberation, when men like Major Saleh were anticipating the imminent overthrow of Saddam. Yet there we all were yesterday evening, watching the same American news commentators on the same satellite television shows, making the very same predictions about Saddam Hussein that they had made two years ago. Then there had been venom for Saddam, expressed by American and Kuwaiti alike. But yesterday the Kuwaiti hatred had softened a little.

"I don't mind the bombing if it was necessary," the Kuwaiti woman confided as she sent off my fax to London on Kuwait's over-burdened telephone system. "But couldn't the Americans have given one more warning?"

Was it really necessary to do all that bombing with all those planes again? Why was this? Why did it have to happen? It was a worthwhile question, one that even Prince Saud Al Sabah found himself unable to address satisfactorily.

In the atrium of the Information Ministry, he had repeated America's contention that the raids were "limited." Credence could no longer be placed in Iraq's promises; Saddam must obey U.N. Security Council resolutions. "I believe there is worldwide acceptance of what the coalition forces have done."

But if it was worldwide, it was certainly not Arab-wide. The Saudis and Kuwaitis may have expressed their satisfaction at this bit of extra Saddam-biffing but the Egyptians did not support it — President Hosni Mubarak regretted the use of force — and the Arab League complained about it along with Jordan, which objected to the raids. Syria remained gloweringly silent. So did Algeria.

Indeed, one got the impression that the Kuwaitis were finally having to face up to a kind of isolation, understanding as never before how much they must now rely upon American protection they are beginning to realise they have crossed a divide. All the talk of Arab brotherhood and unity went out the window on

Aug. 2, 1990, but now the gradual loss of this familiar neighbourly rhetoric — bestowed upon Saddam Hussein on Sept. 23, 1989 by none other than the emir of Kuwait himself — has left a gulf, filled instead by U.S. prompts.

The Kuwaitis are beginning to understand Saddam: that his crisis-creation is directed at his fellow Arabs rather than the West. They have noticed how mildly their government has chosen to condemn Israel's refusal to adhere to the U.N. Security Council resolution on returning the 413 Palestinian deportees to their homes. Asked about it, Prince Saud refused even to discuss the matter.

Yet, on Jan. 14, a middle-aged Kuwaiti, dressed in gold-fringed robes, could be seen watching a CNN newscast of the Iraqi air raids in the lobby of the Kuwaiti International Hotel, quietly cursing. There on the television were the usual western claims of "punishing" Saddam, of "spanking" him — the old language of colonialism — and even the same grim references to "collateral damage" that should have died with the Gulf war. But of course Kuwaitis are waking up to the realisation that the Gulf war has not ended.

So who was the middle-aged man cursing? Up on the border,

the Iraqis do not inspire as much fear as the citizens of Kuwait might credit them with. They have defeated and urinated on the border posts in advance of tonight's deadline to leave the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarised zone.

And by today the West must take action to save the Muslims of Bosnia, otherwise the delegates to the Islamic Conference will take steps to send their own military assistance to the Muslims of the Balkans. How we in the West had forgotten that even more pregnant deadline, set down in Jeddah last year.

The European Community was sending a six-day ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs, but the horrors of the Balkans long ago exhausted Arab patience. The massacres, tortures, rapes of Bosnia have far outdone the inequities of Iraqi occupation in Kuwait, leaving the little emirate isolated even from further sympathy. It is now Saddam's foreign minister who talks of "vicious aggression."

However evil its leader, can Arabs remain unsympathetic to Iraq much longer? Safe behind their Patriots, the Kuwaitis will be asking themselves the same question, counting the cost of America's friendship and protection as they realise the price that must be paid for these expensive commodities.

## Welcome to colonial society

By Yasser Alwan

Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to tonight's very special show. This distinguished five star hotel and one of the finest international airline companies are proud to present a jazz concert extra-ordinaire.

Of course, you all know that jazz emerged from blues, that sad but exuberant music that was borne out of the horrifying experiences of black slaves in America. The music is nothing less than a symbol of the indomitable spirit of the people who created it. Most historians believe that jazz began with Jelly Roll Morton just at the turn of the century, to be thereafter immortalised by the improvisations of the great Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong. Since the 1950s, though, jazz has grown beyond the boundaries of its traditional and spiritual home. Today, it is as international as Mozart.

So is tonight's band. These musicians have established a name for themselves throughout Europe, and they have performed around the world. Their technical mastery and expression have kept them at the forefront of the modern music scene. But please don't expect them to go all out tonight. Just look around and you'll see why.

Since I'm on stage for the moment, let me tell you what I think. First of all, you folks hardly look like the jazz concert crowd. Backstage, one of the musicians told me that he thought he was at the opera. You might honestly ask yourselves if you came to see the show or to be seen at the show. Look, see that poor fellow over there, the one wearing jeans. I really hope he wins the lottery later. Then — to his embarrassment, I'm sure — he'll have to walk in front of all you ladies and sequins, so naked and ordinary in jeans and a button-down shirt. He must have thought he was going to the Blue Note or something. I mean if you were a musician and had a crowd that looked as rigid as you do, would you play with all your soul?

While I'm here, I'd like to talk to you about another show, the one outside this hotel, the one which each of you hears in everyday life. That's the one. While we're safely tucked away in this corner of the city, enveloped by our air of high culture, most other Jordanians are out there, totally unable to get in. Of course, the management and sponsors had to charge 15 dinars a pop to keep it this way. Consider that your tickets for this evening's performance cost upwards of ten per cent of the salary of an average government employee, which, by the way, is the largest single employer in the country. What do you think would happen if some less affluent people came and won the lottery? You can bet a good dollar that this fine international airline company is not about to give away a pair of round-trip tickets to people who can't spend money at their destination. Instead, they are offering it to you, the already privileged people.

ple who can afford to travel to Europe almost any time.

Another thing: Just consider where we are, where you all live, where you came from to see tonight's performance. We're in West — literally and figuratively — Amman. And most if not all of us never cross the psychological border to East Amman. Too much culture shock. The people there are different, aren't they? Besides, their only "culture" — not counting Jordan Television — is the occasional traditional event sponsored free of charge by the authorities. Or, for those who can afford it, mostly American high school films — those which show just enough panties and macho action to keep them coming back for more. They certainly can't be expected to appreciate jazz like you can.

We are all Arabs, so no one can accuse us of racism and bigotry towards the dwellers of East Amman. And we certainly cannot be accused of colonialism, especially by former colonialists. But that's too modern a word for us anyway. Let's use a much more appropriate term and just call ourselves a feudal bourgeoisie. For it is a fact that how the other Jordanian "half" lives is more alien to us than European lifestyles. Because all we do is protect, if not increase, our privileges and continue to build our walls higher and raise the prices to jazz concerts. Even in my short lifetime, I have seen the world change completely. But I haven't seen anything really change yet in this part of the world. Here, we make new constitutions and new laws, but we're still in colonial — sorry, feudal — times. It is a refined feudalism though, because we don't kill people with bullets anymore, at least not out in the open. Instead we strangle them with our laws and decrees.

Aristotle once wrote that every city is actually two cities — a rich one and a poor one — and that they are perpetually at war with one another. I say that a country divided cannot stand — for Amman is Jordan to the rest of the world and to those of you who have travelled outside this capital and seen the neglect. The line is drawn at downtown and around the perimeter of West Amman. Not so different from the Algerians who the French built during the last century to house and protect themselves while keeping the indigenous people out. The war is cultural, economic, legal, and psychological. It is as gentle and cultivated: the kind of war that is fought with jazz concerts and feudal privileges.

So welcome to this embassy of sterilised culture. Welcome to plastic-wrapped, prepackaged, palatable culture. Welcome to predictability and cliché. Let's see how serviceable we can make our culture. Yesterday, it was an Arab folk dance; today, it's jazz; tomorrow, it will probably be an even bigger chunk of Arab culture. This sameness we are sponsoring tonight is catered to the tastes of people — not you and me — who are defining what or who Arabs should be.

I hope you enjoy the show.

### LETTERS

#### Smile and the world smiles with you

To the Editor:

Whenever E. Yaghi ventures into the fragile world of human feelings with the simple and colourful settings that are found only in children's fairy tales, I try to figure out where the morals for the grown-ups are hidden. Sometimes I succeed, as in "Gloom Buster" (Jordan Times, Jan. 14-15, 1993), and I hope I can share my findings with some readers.

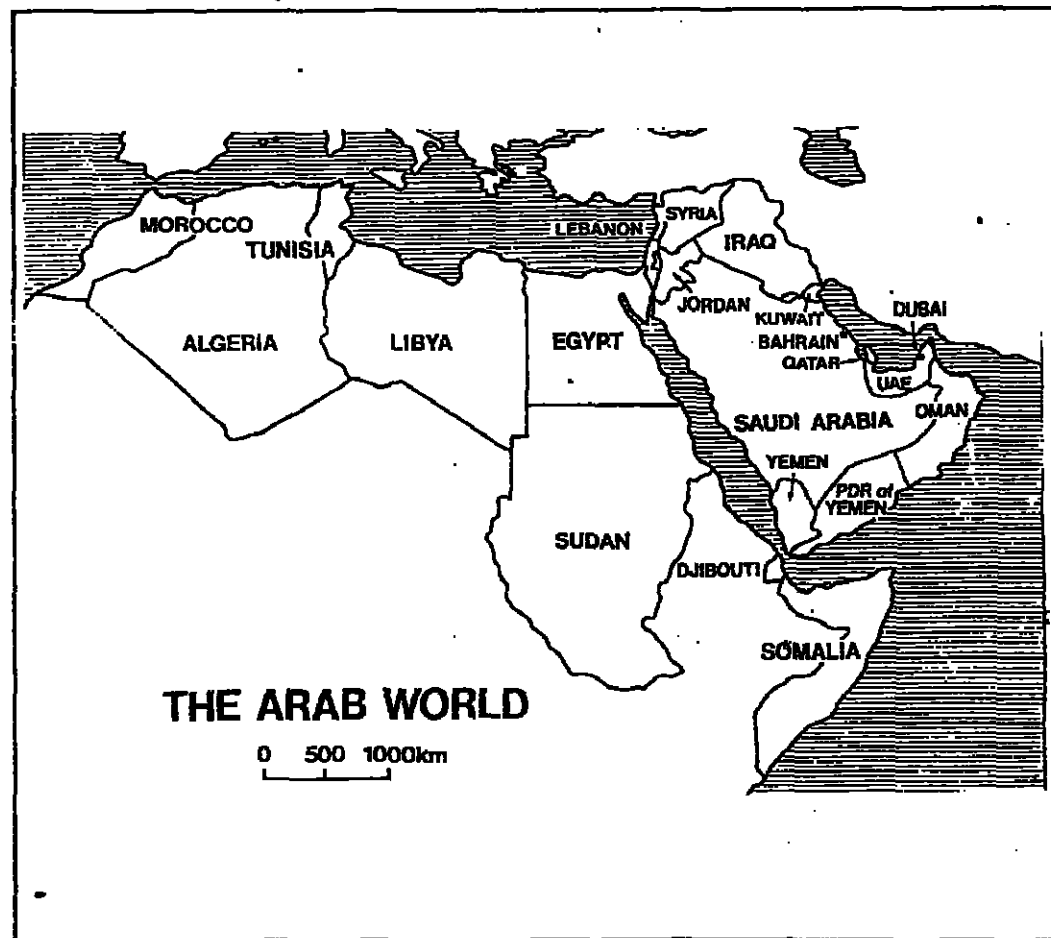
Good and evil wrestle inside us in the same way that the Gloom Buster and the Gloom Maker compete for happiness and sadness. The act of calling the former (suggested by Yaghi) implies that we make an effort to search for him inside us so that he may help us rid ourselves from gloom. Now, if we fail, as the Gloom Buster when he was in the hospital for recharge or rest, we should keep on trying, just as we do with the telephone, until we get an answer. What a great accomplishment it is when we finally make the connection! We see the sun rising again and feel our hearts dancing happy rhythms on the approaching warm bridges of light and life.

The Laugh Man is the external catalyst or the wonderful switch operator who is devoted to helping make the connection. No wonder everybody loves him; he is the good friend whom you love and trust and can be totally yourself with.

So remember: If the Gloom Buster does not answer, go find the Laugh Man.

Hassan El Baroudi,  
WHO/CEHA,  
P.O. Box 926967,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



مكتبة الصحافة



## Allies unleash fresh attacks on Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

Gulf war. U.S. officials said the significance of the attack was in its proximity to Baghdad and the seat of power.

At least two houses were destroyed in the area, most window glass was shattered and apparent missile fragments rested in backyards.

"This is Bush's fault," said Moheem Ali Muhammad as he pointed to bloodstains left by his three small daughters injured by flying glass.

"What child deserves this? I should leave this place as a museum for killings," said the businessman, whose wife and daughters were hospitalized.

Defence Department officials said that a Baghdad hotel in which two civilians were killed was hit by a U.S. navy cruise missile.

A senior military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Defence Department had concluded that a Tomahawk cruise missile fired in Sunday's attack had been knocked off its intended course and exploded at the Al-Rashid Hotel.

The missile was knocked off course by Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery, the official said. It was fired from a navy ship as part of Sunday's 40-missile attack.

"We regret the loss of life," the Pentagon official said.

Iraq said its forces had shot down eight of the U.S. cruise missiles.

"President Saddam Hussein has ordered to honour the fighters who downed missiles of the aggressors on Jan. 17," Baghdad Radio said quoting a military spokesman.

The radio said the president had awarded each military unit "half a million dinars for each missile shot." Half a million dinars is \$1.6 million at the official rate of \$2,500 on the black market.

At the Al Rashid Hotel a furious worker shouted, "Bush has blood on his hands."

A funeral cortege for the two hotel victims, including a military band, passed by the Al Rashid. The coffins were draped in Iraqi flags. One of the victims was a hotel receptionist.

The 14-storey hotel is home to many visiting journalists, several of whom were injured by the blast. It also was the site for the sixth world Popular Islamic Conference, a group of academics and religious officials from Muslim nations. The Iraqi News Agency said the conference was called to condemn allied aggression against Iraq.

The first of Monday's daytime attacks was carried out by 75 U.S., British and French aircraft against Iraqi missile sites in the south, where the allies had barred Iraqi flights since August.

An Iraqi military spokesman said allied aircraft struck nine military positions in Dhi Qar province and the city of Nassariya in southern Iraq and south of Mosul in the north, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

The agency said two raids south of Mosul were driven off by Iraqi defences, but made no claims of allied aircraft being hit.

Baghdad said three civilians were killed and 30 wounded in Sunday's missile attack.

Last Wednesday's allied air

raids on anti-aircraft batteries in southern Iraq killed 17 soldiers and two civilians and wounded 15 people, it said.

A Pentagon official said the second attack Monday was flown against anti-aircraft batteries in the north after their radars targeted coalition planes, indicating they were ready to fire.

Air raid sirens went off in Dohran, Saudi Arabia, which allied warplanes are using in the campaign against Iraq, and in Kuwait City as rumours circulated that Iraq had fired a Scud missile. Military and aviation officials could not confirm any attack.

The allies say they are trying to force Iraq to honour the U.N. resolutions that set the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire.

In announcing Monday's attacks, White House spokesman Paul Clarke said:

"This action has been undertaken in response to Iraqi moves to reconstitute its surface-to-air missile systems in the region south of the 32nd Parallel and to Iraq's openly proclaimed policy of challenging the no-fly zones."

Further provocations by Iraq "will be dealt with forcefully and without warning," he said.

The Iraqi newspaper Babel called Sunday night's attack a crime and lashed out at Mr. Bush.

"George Bush wanted to end his black record and vindicate his defeat with a new bloodbath against the Iraqi people," the paper said.

Iraq also vowed Monday to fight on for the right to control its land, sea and airspace.

State radio quoted Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan as saying: "Iraq categorically rejects violation of its sovereignty whether in land, sea or air."

"Any infringement of any of these (air, sea or skies) means submission to the principle of division," said Mr. Ramadan.

He urged the U.N. Security Council to uphold Iraqi sovereignty rather than undermine it.

"The sovereignty of the country is an indivisible part and the duty of the Security Council is to preserve countries' sovereignty and not to issue resolutions to divide them according to the wishes of the United States, Britain and France."

Iraq's U.N. envoy said that Baghdad expected more attacks against it because it was U.S. government policy to use military force.

He repeated Baghdad's vow to retaliate against any future bombing by U.S.-led forces, saying "we have the right to retaliate and do whatever we could in self-defence."

Nizar Hamdoun, speaking to Reuters television, said: "It has been a policy of the American administration to use military force so it (the latest raids) is just a continuation of that."

"We always have expected and we still are expecting more attacks," he said in answer to questions.

Mr. Hamdoun, however, said he did not know what the next step would be in possibly authorising flights by U.N. weapons inspectors and guaranteeing their safety, one reason for the allied attacks.

Asked if the ball was now in Iraq's court, he said: "The ball is

lost somewhere in between."

The U.N. special commission, in charge of destroying Iraq's dangerous weapons, before Monday's allied attack had notified Iraq of plans to fly inspectors into the country Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

But U.N. sources said they did not expect an answer quickly in light of the raids.

Mr. Hamdoun said Iraq was gratified by support from Arab states, but would not elaborate.

"We get all kinds of support from the Arab World, either back home or at the United Nations," he said.

Iraq meanwhile, removed its last police posts and officers from Kuwait two days after a deadline for their withdrawal, the United Nations said.

This removed a secondary but nagging cause of friction between the Western powers and Iraq.

Concern in Kuwait persisted over possible reprisals for the continued U.S.-led allied attacks on Iraq.

Nerves in the emirate were tested when security staff escorted passengers at the airport to air raid shelters for 12 minutes as a precaution against a possible Iraqi attack which did not materialise.

Kuwait Television broadcast civil defence instructions to the estimated 1.4 million people of the emirate.

The U.N.'s Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) said Iraq dismantled and removed equipment from three of the six posts on Sunday and the remaining three Monday.

"Today the senior Iraqi liaison officer informed UNIKOM headquarters that all of the Iraqi police posts had been removed," UNIKOM spokesman Abdul Latif Kabaj told Reuters.

"UNIKOM has carried out physical inspections of each Iraqi post and can confirm that everything has been removed."

Kuwait's Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah said the emirate would ask France and Britain to send troops to join Kuwaiti fighting units near the north and north-western border areas.

A U.S. task force started arriving in Kuwait last week.

The requests would be made under defence accords signed with Britain and France.

In other developments Monday: Iraq's information minister said his country was prepared to enter talks but would not be terrorised by repeated air strikes.

Hamed Yousef Hammadi, standing next to a large crater beside the smashed lobby of Al Rashid Hotel, told reporters: "The people in the Bush administration and the allies have to come to a diplomatic, political solution. Fighting will not achieve anything."

The Turkish Foreign Ministry said coalition planes based in Turkey had not been involved in Monday's allied attacks at targets in southern Iraq.

A senior U.S. defence official said the raid by 75 U.S., British and French warplanes in southern Iraq was "to finish the job" against anti-aircraft missile batteries and radar defence sites missed in allied raids last week.

Financial markets shrugged off the latest raids on Iraq, with oil prices showing only a modest rally midway through Monday's European dealings.

The dollar fell, gold inched higher and stock prices were slightly lower as traders found no motivation in the allied attacks on Iraq.

Unlike the Gulf war two years ago, which threw world markets into wild gyrations amid fears that prolonged fighting could disrupt crucial Mideast oil supplies and wreck industrialised economies, this latest combat is being greeted with a collective yawn by the financial community.

Britain said significant damage had been inflicted on Iraq's remaining air defences in the southern "no-fly" zone during the latest raids and warned Baghdad further action would be taken if necessary.

"If the Iraqis still refuse to comply with United Nations resolutions, the government will not shrink from considering the need for further action in consultation with coalition partners," Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said.

Mr. Rifkind told parliament

early indications were that Monday's allied air attacks had inflicted "further significant damage... on Iraq's residual air defences... in the southern 'no-fly' zone," although damage assessments were continuing.

Four British Tornado GR1 attack aircraft and two Victor tankers were among the planes that took part in the operation.

Seventy-five allied warplanes, including six French Mirage 2000 RDI fighters flying air cover, took part, the French defence ministry announced.

The French fighters, plus a KC-135 refuelling tanker, returned safely to bases in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, after the raid, a ministry spokesman announced.

The Vatican denied an Italian news agency report that Iraq had asked Pope John Paul to mediate between Baghdad and Washington.

Chief spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls was responding to questions about a report that Baghdad's ambassador to the Vatican, Wissam Shawkat Al Zahawi, had made a specific request.

"There has been no appeal from Saddam Hussein (to the Pope) and no request for mediation as such," Mr. Navarro-Valls told reporters.

The Italian news agency Adn Kronos said Mr. Wissam, who had a meeting last Friday with the Vatican's Archbishop Jean-Louis

Tauran, had asked the Pope to mediate "to put an immediate end to this aggression without any legal foundation."

The Iraqi factory destroyed Sunday contained metalworking machinery and had been visited four times by United Nations inspectors, U.N. official Rolf Ekeus was quoted as saying.

The complex was probably not

an essential part of Iraq's weapons strategy, Mr. Ekeus, Swedish executive chairman of the U.N. special commission in charge of scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, was quoted by the evening Aftonbladet newspaper as saying.

"All equipment that can only be used for military purposes had been destroyed. Equipment which can be used for both milit-

ary and civilian purposes was still there, but we had it under strict control," Mr. Ekeus said.

Aftonbladet did not say where the interview took place, and the Swedish foreign ministry said Mr. Ekeus was not in Sweden.

Germany gave its full support to the strikes against Iraq, saying Baghdad had brought them on itself.

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## King voices deep regret over flare-up

(Continued from page 1)

ongoing conflict as a nation and put an end to the fragmentation and destruction of the Arab World.

While voicing support for "the Iraqi people and Iraq's sovereignty over its land and space," the King indicated major differences with the Iraqi regime.

"We haven't been able to see eye-to-eye with the Iraqi leadership... we haven't been able to understand why actions were taken (by it)," the King said. "Nobody sought our advice; nobody listened to our advice," he said.

Asked whether he agreed that the West was applying double standards in dealing with problems of the region, King Hussein said: "One problem receives more attention than others."

The King said he was looking forward to a better world where "we have to agree on principles and standards and ideals and apply them everywhere equally."

The United States and its Western allies have been severely condemned for applying double standards in responding to conflicts in the area. Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Parliament and the press contrast the swift U.S. action on Iraq with Washington's silence over Israel's rejection of United Nations Security Council Resolution 799 on the repatriation of 415 Palestinians it expelled to South Lebanon last month.

"We are extremely disturbed by what is happening in the occupied territories," the King told reporters.

King Hussein said he had had no contacts with the United States over the latest tension in

the area but hoped "this will be the case" in the future.

"I say this despite the bitterness and sadness of the moment; and I say this as an old friend of the United States," the King said.

Describing relations with Oman as excellent, King Hussein said his trip to Oman "was a good step on the road towards ideal relations" with the Sultanate.

The King, who arrived at Amman military airport at 4.30 p.m., was received by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, members of the royal family, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and Cabinet members and other officials.

The Lower House Monday condemned the U.S. attack on Iraq and urged Arab states to seek a united front in the face of what it referred to as "the common danger."

In a statement issued Monday, the House denounced "the continued U.S. aggression against Iraq and the Iraqi people," and rejected all arguments to justify the attacks.

The statement said the Jordanian people decry the Western "encroachment on the sovereignty of Iraq" in violation of international law.

Condemning what it saw as double standards in implementing United Nations resolutions, the House voiced solidarity with the Iraqi people.

Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif called on Iraq and the United Nations to solve the current conflict through peaceful dialogue in order to avoid military escalation which he said serves no purpose.

## ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that the intensive course in modern standard Arabic for speakers of other languages will commence on January 30, 1993, and will last for 16 weeks. The programme is intensive and classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday-Wednesday. Evening classes meet three days a week: Saturday, Monday and Wednesday.

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## Financial Markets

**Jordan Times**  
In co-operation with  
**Cairo Amman Bank**

### U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 18/1/93	Tokyo Close 18/1/93
Sterling Pound	1.5312	1.5358
Deutsche Mark	1.6355	1.6350
Swiss Franc	1.4970	1.4958
French Franc	5.5290	5.5235**
Japanese Yen	126.05	125.82
European Currency Unit	1.2010	1.2032**

USD Per STG  
European Opening at 9:30 a.m. GMT

### Inter-currency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.12	3.13	3.31	3.68
Sterling Pound	6.81	6.87	6.56	6.56
Deutsche Mark	8.50	8.31	7.93	7.37
Swiss Franc	5.43	5.50	5.43	5.18
French Franc	11.37	11.12	10.12	9.25
Japanese Yen	3.81	3.65	3.50	3.46
European Currency Unit	10.13	10.06	9.68	8.94

Interbank bid rates for overnight currency (U.S. Dollar) 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	327.85	6.40	Silver	3.68	.080

### Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.689	0.691
Sterling Pound	1.0571	1.0624
Deutsche Mark	0.4207	0.4228
Swiss Franc	0.4599	0.4622
French Franc	0.1245	0.1251
Japanese Yen	0.5409	0.5406
Dutch Guilder	0.3743	0.3782
Swedish Krona	0.0926	0.0951
Italian Lira	0.0459	0.0461
Belgian Franc	0.02044	0.02054

### Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7970	1.8180
Lebanese Lira	0.036265	0.036485
Saudi Riyal	0.1833	0.1845
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2350	2.2900
Qatari Riyal	0.1866	0.1860
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7540	1.7750
UAE Dirham	0.1866	0.1880
Greek Drachma	0.31465	0.31865
Cypriot Pound	1.4195	1.4315

### CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	16/1/93	Close	17/1/93	Close
All-Share	163.62		164.04	
Banking Sector	131.79		132.35	
Insurance Sector	195.44		200.90	
Industry Sector	253.98		253.84	
Services Sector	249.67		251.16	

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One U.S. dollar	1.2806/11	Canadian dollar
	1.6250/60	Deutsche marks
	1.8240/70	Dutch guilders
	1.4847/57	Swiss francs
	33.40/44	Belgian francs
	5.4975/5025	French francs
	1482/1487	Italian lire
	125.64/69	Japanese yen
	7.2500/600	Swedish crowns
	6.8450/550	Norwegian crowns
	6.2450/550	Danish crowns
One sterling	1.5455/65	
One ounce of gold	\$328.05/\$328.45	

# CBJ memoranda take Jordan bankers by surprise

By Samir Shafiq  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Bankers in Amman were still perplexed Monday by the Central Bank of Jordan's (CBJ) decision to hike the legal reserve it imposes on banks and financial companies. The bankers interviewed were unanimous that the decision was untimely and detrimental to the economic pick-up.

The CBJ Sunday issued two memoranda to all commercial banks and to all investment banks and financial companies informing them that, as of March 1, 1993, the legal reserve required by the central bank has been raised to 15 per cent and nine per cent respectively.

Legal reserves are funds that commercial banks, investment banks and financial companies are required to park with the central bank as deposits earning no interest. The current legal

reserve requirements are 13 per cent of the total deposits at commercial banks and seven per cent of all deposits at investment banks and financial companies.

The CBJ memoranda specified that 60 per cent of the obligatory legal reserve would be classified as a two-day notice deposit which cannot be released except after the central bank approval of the reasons for the requested withdrawal (s). The remaining 40 per cent would be treated as current deposit.

Finance Minister Basil Jarrah firmly repeated: "The finance minister and the ministry of finance had nothing to do with the new measure. It was solely a decision by the central bank." The CBJ governor refused to talk to the press about the reasons behind the abrupt raise in legal reserves.

CBJ Deputy Governor Michel Marto, in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, gave various explanations but never did answer the main question: Why was the legal reserve requirement hiked without any obvious reason?

Most general managers of commercial and investment banks found all kinds of excuses for not talking to the Jordan Times, while those who did accept to talk expressed total surprise at the CBJ move.

"I see no reason for the raise. It seems to me and indirect tax because all the additional cash to be deposited at the central bank will only be used by the funds of the treasury," said the general manager of a bank, noting that the excess liquidity was not that high to warrant hiking the reserve. Another general manager said that liquidity in the banking sector could be high at two or three known banks only, but others,

especially the late comers to the market, are at a total disadvantage.

"The central bank keeps urging us to lower interest on credits, but what it did Sunday forces us to do just the opposite: Keep interest on loans high," he said.

He went on saying that the financial market was not fairly balanced as each bank or financial company was a "special case" for one reason or another and, as such, CBJ unintentionally harms many entities by its latest memoranda.

"Sometimes I feel the CBJ is operating a double-standard philosophy," the bank chief pointed out.

Increasing the reserve requirement, in addition to mopping up excess liquidity from the market, serves the purpose of reducing inflation. But all bankers interviewed concurred in the opinion that inflation was low and did not constitute a threat to be coun-

tered by such a move by the CBJ.

So why did the CBJ raise the legal reserve requirement on commercial banks, investment banks and financial companies?

An economist said the action was hard to grasp even though he agreed that the central bank has every right to test the market and reassess its policy or adopt any measure any time in the near future.

The economist saw no reason for the CBJ to squeeze the market at this stage because, according to him:

— the credit ceiling under implementation in many forms is enough at present,

— the economy is not overheated as signs of soaring inflation and high employment are simply not there.

Jordan will be in a new upturn business cycle which should be allowed to go on and not throttled at this early stage. Another banking analyst pre-

dicted that the CBJ, by hiking the legal reserve requirement, was only taking a precautionary measure on the inflation front.

He said the CBJ might also want to pressure the banks into granting credits more prudently because, according to him banks could still go around all measures limiting credit growth and therefore, by raising the legal reserves, the CBJ was blocking all "escape routes."

Another possible reason could have been to curb availability of funds for imports because in 1992 imports exceeded by far the target which was envisaged under the structural adjustment programme.

But, the analyst said, limiting imports needs other monetary tools in order to produce positive results and there must be new measures coming through soon to achieve that end if that is the main problem.

## Fuel subsidies cost Nigeria \$3b a year

ABUJA (R) — Nigeria's Vice-president Augustus Aikhoma has said that Africa's most populous nation was losing about 62 billion naira (\$63.08 billion) a year as a result of high domestic fuel subsidies.

Mr. Aikhoma said figures from state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) indicated the government was losing some 42 billion naira annually due to the subsidies, while NNPC lost roughly 11 billion naira and oil marketers seven billion.

"As of today the wastages and leakages in our oil sector as a result of the high subsidy on fuel consumption in Nigeria is about 95 per cent, which in monetary terms is about 62 billion naira annually," Mr. Aikhoma told a weekly news briefing in Abuja.

OPEC-member Nigeria has been under pressure from local oil officials and the International Monetary Fund to cut the sub-

sidies to stem cross-border smuggling of the commodity.

The pump price of petrol in Nigeria is now 0.70 naira (\$0.03) per litre, probably the cheapest in the world.

Recently, military President Ibrahim Babangida said his administration did not intend to remove the subsidies from now, saying the disruptive and destabilising consequences of such a move would be undesirable.

The government, carrying out an extended final leg of a delicate return to civilian rule programme, is nevertheless aware of the benefits of hiking fuel prices and is perhaps beginning to feel the pressure to do so sooner than later.

"This issue has been unduly publicised and has become a real headache," Mr. Aikhoma said. "It is something that has to be done at some point in time, it has become a real issue," he said.

The Central Bank of Nigeria

said recovery of Africa's biggest economy had slowed down in 1992 after six years of free market reforms.

"Major economic indicators point to a slowdown in the pace of economic recovery during the 1992 fiscal year," the bank said in its monetary and credit policy guidelines for 1993.

The guidelines, made available to Reuters, said the overall balance of payments in the first half of 1992 showed a deficit of 5.7 billion naira against a surplus of 8.1 billion naira in the same period in 1991.

Agricultural output grew by 5.1 per cent in 1992, compared with 5.5 per cent in 1991.

The central bank said industrial output during the first half of 1992 fell by 2.8 per cent from the level in the second half of 1991.

"Manufacturing production continued to be characterised by capacity under-utilisation, high and rising unit costs and excessive levels of inventory," the central bank said.

Producers in Africa's most populous nation blame these problems partly on central bank monetary policies, carried out under a structural adjustment programme (SAP) started by the military government in 1986 to mend an economy battered by high foreign debt, low productivity, mismanagement and lower world prices for its main export, oil.

Producers say the central bank policies, including frequent liquidity mop-ups through the issue of compulsory stabilisation securities to banks, have been geared towards curbing inflation rather than stimulating production.

The central bank said the inflation rate rose from 7.7 per cent at the end of 1991 to 33.7 per cent at end of August 1992. Independent

sources estimate the current rate at about 50 per cent.

The SAP had achieved a large measure of success, including growth in local output, a boost in savings in response to interest rates deregulation, and emergence of a more congenial economic environment, the central bank said.

However, the central bank said economic growth was still being hampered by a number of problems.

"Macroeconomic policy variables have generally deviated from set targets, partly as a result of the policy realignments in respect of interest rate and exchange rate regimes and partly as a result of fiscal imbalances and inadequate policy coordination," it said.

By the end of September 1992, narrow money stock M1 had risen by 51 per cent, compared to a target maximum of 24.3 per cent for the year and 20.6 per cent actual growth in the corresponding period in 1991.

Banking system credit to the economy rose by 25.5 per cent by end September as against a target of 13.2 per cent for the whole year. Credit to the government increased by 40.6 per cent against the 7.7 per cent target annual growth rate. In the corresponding period in 1991, there was a rise of 21 per cent.

The central bank said its monetary and credit policy objectives in 1993 would include curbing inflation, attaining a sustainable balance of payments position and stabilising the naira exchange rate.

It would begin to use open market operations instruments in 1993 and stabilisation securities would be gradually phased out and used only as a "fall back position."

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## Peking tells banks to tighten credit

BEIJING (R) — China's top economic officials, concerned the economy is overheating, have told banks to stop writing blank cheques for industry.

Premier Li Peng and Vice Premier Zhu Rongji were quoted Monday as telling a banking conference that state-run banks this year must help reduce money supply and cut credit, the prime source of inflationary pressure.

In the long run they must become commercial operations instead of government cashiers. Banks should "control not only the size of loans but also issuance of currency," the official Xinhua News Agency quoted Mr. Zhu as saying.

The comments highlight an urgent need for financial reform in China. The banking system was designed to serve the needs of Stalinist-style central planning and lacks the tools to fine-tune an emerging market economy.

Last year banks ignored government-imposed loans ceilings and poured credit into state-run industry, fuelling an unprecedented investment boom that underpinned growth of 12 per cent. Industrial production was up 20 per cent.

Since two-thirds of state industry is losing money, many of the loans will never be repaid.

"Banks should no longer be taken for cashiers or accountants of the government or governmental departments," said Mr. Zhu, who is China's top economic reformer. "They should have incentive mechanisms and bear risks as well."

Under the present system banks have no incentive to make money. In fact, they are forced to lose money by propping up state industry.

So-called "policy loans," directed by local and central government, are increasing as Beijing tries to shift the burden of subsidising industry from the national budget to the banks. The result is a mountain of bad debt that threatens parts of the financial system with collapse.

Mr. Zhu's warning that banks must start to shoulder risk is as much aimed at money-lending state industry as banks themselves.

According to official statistics bank loans last year totalled 360 billion yuan (\$63 billion) while money put into circulation amounted to 100 billion yuan (\$17.5 billion), an increase of 20 per cent and 200 per cent respectively.

A staggering 730 billion yuan (\$128 billion) went into fixed investments, a rise of 33 per cent over the 1991 figure, and the main factor behind surging money supply.

Mr. Li noted that the Chinese Communist Party had clearly signalled that overhauling must be prevented. Annual inflation last year was 5.3 per cent, although it reached double figures in all major cities.

Financial reform is critical in government attempts to control the pace of growth and manage inflation. Banks must be given more autonomy if the Chinese economy is to break out of a destructive boom-bust cycle, economists say.

In the past the government has slowed things down by chopping off credit by decree—the equivalent of crashing the economy into a brick wall.

The government now talks of macro-economic management to avoid that kind of trauma, using indirect monetary tools such as bank interest rates. However, that approach can only work if banks can determine their own loan portfolios.

Many bank loans last year financed production of unsaleable goods as managers of state-owned factories took Deng Xiaoping's drive for accelerated reform as a green light to boost production at any cost.

Mr. Zhu said this year industry must limit production of overstocked goods, promote sales to reduce stockpiles and cut losses by government enterprises.

"Production of those products that cannot be sold or transported must be stopped," Xinhua quoted him as saying. He called for more rational investment in fixed assets after a year of runaway expansion.

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## Fighting intensifies between Bosnia's Croat, Muslim allies

ZAGREB (R) — Fighting intensified between Croats and Muslims in central Bosnia Monday, splintering their civil war alliance against Serbs and undermining prospects of an international peace settlement.

Croat military and British U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesmen in the region reported fierce artillery and heavy machinegun duels as well as some hand-to-hand fighting in the ethnically split town of Gornji Vakuf and nearby communities. "This situation is totally fraught. It's hard to see any light at the end of the tunnel," a UNPROFOR spokesman told Reuters by telephone from the area where former Muslim and Croat allies have begun fighting over shares of the territorial pie envisaged at the Geneva peace conference.

Croat-Muslim tension, long simmering in west and central Bosnia, flared into fighting last week after Geneva peace mediators designated much of the region for autonomous Croat rule despite its large Muslim minority. In some pockets Muslims are even in the majority.

Political power in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which seceded from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia last March, would be devolved to 10 cantons loosely based on ethnic makeup under the peace plan. But Muslims, Bosnia's largest community, have rebuffed the cantonal blueprint because they say it would saddle them with the least territory, bowing to Serb or Croat occupation of more than 80 per cent of the republic.

Croat-Muslim battles worsened Monday after Bosnia's Muslim army commander, Sefer Halilovic, prohibited Muslim units in three sectors earmarked by peace mediators for Croat administration from submitting to Croat command.

"Fighting is going on in Gornji Vakuf just because Mr. Halilovic has stuck by what he ordered. There is no front line," Veso Vego, spokesman for Bosnia's Croatian Defence Council (HVO) forces, said from HVO headquarters in Mostar.

The flashpoint of Croat-Muslim hostilities in Gornji Vakuf, a drab town of 5,000 people sitting on a strategic supply route between the Croat-held southwest Herzegovina region, near the Adriatic Sea, and Bosnia's disputed centre.

The British UNPROFOR spokesman said clashes had "erupted in a fairly big way" to the south and southwest of Gornji Vakuf, suggesting the conflict was escalating.

He said one town caught in the spread of fighting was Prozor, where HVO forces were reported by relief sources to have expelled Muslim inhabitants last year in an echo of Serb "ethnic cleansing" campaigns.

Meanwhile, a United Nations convoy delivered emergency food and medical supplies to a Bosnian Muslim town blocked by Serbs for nine months and left Monday to return to Sarajevo, a U.N. spokesman said.

Peter Kessler, of the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said he did not yet have any word on the condition of the inhabitants of Zepa, previously reported to be dying from starvation and cold.

Communications with the convoy were very difficult in a remote, mountainous area, near the Serbian-Bosnian border, largely sealed off by Serb irregulars and rocked by fighting with Bosnian Muslim army forces.

The U.N. aid convoy finally reached Zepa Sunday after three futile attempts. Road blocks, including felled trees and minefields, forced it to try four different routes and spend two nights on freezing mountain trails before breaking through.

Mr. Kessler reported hold-ups of several other UNHCR convoys. Relief trucks leaving Serb-occupied Sarajevo for Vitez in central Bosnia to pick up supplies were stalled outside the capital for 11 hours at a Serb checkpoint Sunday.

Mr. Kessler said the convoy's way was blocked by 1,000 Serb women and children protesting at what they called an inadequate

distribution of U.N. supplies to Serb civilians stricken by Bosnia-Herzegovina's civil war.

Another UNHCR convoy headed for Sarajevo from an Adriatic coast supply depot turned back at a Serb roadblock outside the city after gunmen demanded 30 per cent of its cargo in exchange for passage, Mr. Kessler said.

The convoy spent the night in the Croat stronghold of Kiseljak 30 kilometres to the northwest and would try to get into the capital again Monday.

Mr. Kessler said attempted extortion of relief convoys "has been happening more and often in the past few weeks."

He also said five local relief trucks on UNHCR contracts in central Bosnia had not been heard from since Wednesday. "They may be delayed by Croat-Muslim fighting in the region and have just decided to lie low until it abates."

Most parts of the Bosnian capital enjoyed a quiet night and Radio Sarajevo said Monday that the only fighting overnight was in the western frontline suburb of Dobrinja, which was hit by tank, mortar and cannon fire.

It added that 12 people were wounded in the besieged city Sunday.

Yugoslav and Bosnian government forces duelled with artillery in a sharp escalation of Bosnia's civil war, while Bosnian troops fought to cut off rebel Serbs from their Yugoslav allies.

Sunday's cross-border shelling marked the first time Yugoslavia has acknowledged intervening in the war since withdrawing its troops seven months ago from the former Yugoslav republic.

Serb rebels said the offensive by Bosnia's Muslim-led government near the Yugoslav border was the biggest in the region since the war began. The casualty toll was unknown, but it was clearly a bloody battle.

At least 46 Serb fighters and civilians were killed around the village of Skelani in southeastern Bosnia, the official Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, reported.

At a cemetery in Bratunac, a

town 3 kilometres from the front, the cries of Serb women mourning their dead were drowned out by explosions from the fighting, said AP reporter Dusan Stojanovic, who visited the area.

"Damn this war," Darinka Petrovic cried out as she knelt before a cross bearing the name of her son Dragan, 25.

The Serb, whose body has not been recovered, was killed in the Bosnian offensive, which is apparently aimed at cutting a corridor linking Serb-held areas with Serbia, the dominant state in what is left of Yugoslavia.

The cemetery was dotted with at least 100 fresh graves. Some of victims were as young as 12.

In line with the Orthodox Christian Serbs' belief that there is life after death, many grave crosses were covered with shirts to keep the dead warm. Food, drinks and lighted cigarettes were also put on the graves.

Bosnian Serb villages near Bratunac, which lies along the Drina River border between Bosnia and Serbia, were gutted and blasted, Mr. Stojanovic reported. Bare beams were all that remained of roofs, and walls were punctured from bullets and cannon blasts. Pigs searched for food.

A source at Yugoslav army headquarters in Belgrade, capital of Yugoslavia and Serbia, said Yugoslav artillery fired into Bosnia a day after Muslim forces fired into Yugoslavia.

Bosnian Serb and Yugoslav officials said that the cross-border shelling by Bosnian forces continued Sunday and that villages and a power plant in Perucac, about 40 kilometres southwest of Bratunac, were hit.

One person was killed Sunday by Bosnian fire into Serbia, Belgrade Radio said. No casualties were reported in Saturday's shelling.

The Yugoslav military "responded fiercely" to the attacks, Tanjug reported, without giving details. The source at Yugoslav army headquarters said that the response was limited to the artillery barrage and that no Yugoslav ground attack had been launched.

Mr. Clinton planned to observe



U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton, his wife Hillary, and daughter Chelsea wave farewell to the people of Arkansas after an airport rally. The Clinton family flew to Charlottesville, Virginia for the start of the planned bus trip to Washington D.C. (AP photo)

## Clinton conquers Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — A buoyant Bill Clinton pushed aside "the complex and massive problems" soon to confront him and stepped towards the presidency with a visit to his old campus and a talk to foreign ambassadors awaiting America's new leader.

Washington crackled with anticipation over Wednesday's ceremonial installation of a young, new president whose instincts had been shaped by neither global war nor economic depression.

Spread out as far as the eye could see, a third of a million waving, cheering, picture-taking people welcomed Mr. Clinton and Vice President-elect Al Gore and their families to the capital on a mild Sunday evening in January.

Democrats celebrated the first inauguration of one of their own in 15 years. Mr. Clinton embraced it all, throwing his head back in laughter, hugging old friends, giving the thumbs-up signal.

Renewed bombing in Iraq disrupted none of it.

Mr. Clinton's hours until his investiture at noon (1700 GMT) Wednesday brim with purposeful symbolism, touching all bases — a word with the diplomatic corps, a tribute to the slain martyr of black Americans, a meal with some of society's victims.

In the first session, Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gore arranged to meet Monday with 180 foreign ambassadors at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

In the 1960s, Mr. Clinton was a student on that Gothic campus while working part time in the office of his home state's Senator, J. William Fulbright.

Mr. Clinton planned to observe

Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday with students at federally supported Howard University, the nation's premier black university.

And he and Mr. Gore invited to lunch 53 citizens struck by adversity whom one or the other of them had encountered during the campaign. The citizens had told of illnesses, job losses, terrible crimes to which they had fallen victim.

President George Bush stayed out of sight at the presidential retreat in the Maryland mountains. Over the weekend, he entertained members of the Supreme Court and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, his wife and three children. The Bushes will meet the Clintons at the White House shortly before the inauguration.

Foreign problems occupied Mr. Clinton's first evening in Washington. He met for several hours at Blair House with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Colin Powell, with Mr. Gore and Warren Christopher and Les Aspin, his nominees for secretaries of state and defence, respectively.

A somber undertone broke through Mr. Clinton's remarks as he made his way to Washington from Jefferson's home in Charlottesville, Va.

He stopped outside an old country church in the village of Warren, Va., and talked to the townsfolk of "the complex and massive problems" that await him.

He asked for national unity: "We must go forward together or not at all."

When Mr. Clinton's bus pulled in to Washington, Samuel Berger, who will serve as a foreign

policy adviser, climbed aboard to brief him on the new Iraqi bombing raids. Mr. Clinton issued a statement supporting Mr. Bush.

To the mass of people at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Mr. Clinton mentioned the hatreds on display in Bosnia, Somalia, Iraq and elsewhere.

He said the virtues of diversity, still evasive in places in America, had not yet been learned in those foreign places. "As we see today so painfully."

At that hallowed place, Mr. Clinton appealed to his countrymen to set differences aside. "In this world and the world of tomorrow, we must go forward together or not at all," he said, and recalled Lincoln's unheeded inaugural appeal: "We are not enemies but friends. We must not be enemies."

With that, Mr. Clinton walked the length of memorial bridge to a park on the banks of the Potomac.

First he, then daughter Chelsea pulled a thick red rope, ringing a liberty bell replica. They heard thousands of bells ring in response.

Beaming in delight, Mr. Clinton applauded a message from five U.S. astronauts in the heavens above. He flashed a "thumbs up" signal.

At ceremonies across the nation, from the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial in Atlanta to the streets of San Francisco's Chinatown where a new Chinese year was welcomed in, bells rang in response.

Mr. Clinton was saluted by 21 swift jets — and serenaded by 10 of the nation's best saxophone players. Fireworks lit the Washington sky.

## COLUMN

### Japan's oldest person celebrates 114th birthday

TOKYO (R) — Japan's oldest living person, Tane Ikai, celebrated her 114th birthday in her hospital bed in the central city of Nagoya Monday. television and newspapers reported. Mrs. Ikai, who was born in Nagoya in 1879, received a birthday bouquet from the mayor. She has lived in hospital since suffering a stroke in 1988. Mrs. Ikai has outlived her four children, but has two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

### Bush has cleaned out his desk

WASHINGTON (AP) — George Bush may be president for another week, but he's already cleaned out his desk. The Oval Office looked unusually barren to photographers on hand as Mr. Bush signed an economic report Tuesday. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said, "he's already taken the pictures out of his office. They're in boxes, headed to Houston." Until last week, the desk and the walls behind it were filled with pictures and mementoes. Mr. Bush will spend only a few more nights in the White House. He went to Camp David, Md., Friday and will not return until Tuesday, the eve of Bill Clinton's inauguration.

### Big signs rejected as eyesore

SINGAPORE (AP) — Billboards and big advertising signs mounted atop buildings are a blight on Singapore's skyline and will be phased out, officials said. The glittering neon and prominent signs must go to achieve "a more pleasant cityscape," according to the Public Works Department. Sign companies and outdoor advertising firms have been told that no new licenses will be issued for free-standing billboards and large signs on the walls of buildings. The notification said that while gaudy signs might have been suitable in the 1950s and 1960s, they are now unacceptable. Social engineering is the norm and the authorities often tinker with living conditions in this city-state of three million people.

### 'Tongue-tied' thais blast phone company

BANGKOK (R) — A powerful bomb that damaged a telecommunications office in eastern Thailand may have been planted by customers angered by the shortage of working phone booths, residents said. Local residents said they believed the bomb might have been planted by customers angered because many public telephones in Chantaburi province had been out of order for months. They said people had recently taken to laying black funeral wreaths next to broken public phones. Police said the bomb shattered windows at the provincial telephone centre and destroyed five booths.

### Sinister background to Clinton's handiwork

NEW YORK (R) — Bill Clinton may belong to a different political party and a different generation but he has one thing in common with the man he will replace at the White House — he is left-handed. "This year, we couldn't lose, regardless of the election outcome," said Kim Kipars, editor of Leftlander magazine, pointing out that not only Mr. Clinton and Mr. Bush but also independent candidate Ross Perot is left-handed. Mr. Clinton's victory earned him the Leftlander of the Year Award from Leftlanders International. Before "sinister" acquired its modern meaning it meant left-handed.

### Table tennis hits sticky patch over glue ban

LONDON (R) — Substance abuse has struck the sporting world again, involving players in one of the seemingly safest of indoor events — table tennis. Instead of sniffing or shooting up, however, the recently-prohibited practice involves glueing-up — sticking the rubber surfaces of table tennis bats with fresh glue before matches to increase the speed of serves. Last month the International Table Tennis Federation outlawed glueing up within 24 hours of a match and then only with a non-toxic substance.

## Angolan troops destroy rebel HQ

LISBON (R) — The Angolan rebel movement UNITA said Monday that government forces had destroyed its headquarters in the central city of Huambo, but that it had shot down a government jet and knocked out 12 tanks.

UNITA said in a statement faxed to Reuters in Lisbon that more than 500 people had died during the last week of fighting in Huambo, which it said was mostly in UNITA hands.

Angolan state radio meanwhile reported clashes around the northwestern oil town of Soyo, the supply base of a mainly onshore oilfield that accounts for a third of Angola's \$50,000 barrel per day production.

UNITA forces encircling Soyo were receiving support from Zairean troops ferried across the nearby border by boat, the Portuguese News Agency (LUSA) quoted state radio as saying.

Diplomats in Lisbon who follow events in Angola closely, said they expected UNITA to try to capture Soyo within the next three days.

UNITA said in its latest statement that it wanted an end to the renewed civil war, which broke out two weeks ago, ripping apart a 1991 peace agreement that ended 16 years of conflict.

Angola lapsed back into the full-scale fighting after UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) rejected its defeat by the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) in elections last September.

But it said it was determined to teach the government a military lesson before going back to the negotiating table.

"UNITA does not refuse to negotiate but it will never agree to negotiate with a knife at its throat," the statement said.

"Let us wait for developments in all the theatres of combat for the (ruling) MPLA and its allies to understand that what happened in Luanda between Oct. 30 and Nov. 1 is not only unacceptable but will have its reply," UNITA said.

This effectively threatened revenge for a government crackdown in the Angolan capital two months ago which eliminated UNITA's presence there.

Thousands were killed in this bloody offensive which followed UNITA's rejection of its defeat by the MPLA in the U.N.-supervised elections and the movement's occupation of a large swathe of the interior.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Gunmen kill 9 in S. Africa ambush

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Gunmen killed nine people and wounded several others in an ambush on a minibus in Natal province, police said. A police spokesman said two unidentified gunmen opened fire on the minibus near Pietermaritzburg, a focus of violence in an eight-year battle for political control of black townships in the Zulu dominated Natal province. He said the driver and two passengers escaped before the vehicle overturned and plunged down an embankment. The gunmen fired into the wrecked bus, killing nine people and wounding a number of others. Human rights monitors have said more than 12,500 people have died since 1984 in fighting between Nelson Mandela's African National Congress and Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthe's Inkatha Freedom Party and in conflict with police and government troops.

### Storm creates havoc in California

LOS ANGELES (R) — Rain-weary residents battled flood waters and mudslides after another fierce winter storm raked soggy southern California, causing at least seven deaths and forcing thousands of people out of their homes. Across the U.S.-Mexican border in Tijuana, the latest storm system brought the death toll to 27 after two weeks of steady rain inundated the city's shantytowns. Nearly 6,000 people were left homeless. After enduring six years of drought, southern California has been drenched by record rainfall over the past 10 days. As of Sunday, Los Angeles had received just over 15 inches (38 cm) of rain since the beginning of the season in July — slightly more than its normal average for an entire year. The storm was blamed for at least seven deaths in southern California. A family of five was killed Sunday in Riverside County when their pickup truck was trapped in rising flood waters, police said. A 44-year-old man drowned Friday after being swept into a creek in Long Beach. One storm-related death was reported in Arizona, which was suffering its worst flooding in a decade.

### Hawaiians march for sovereignty

HONOLULU (AP) — About 10,000 native Hawaiians and their supporters marched to the former royal palace, denouncing the U.S. government for its part in the overthrow of their island queen a century ago. Yet amid the calls Sunday for more Hawaiian sovereignty was disagreement about what exactly that meant. Sentiments range from those seeking only an official apology from the United States to those calling for an independent Republic of Hawaii. "They (Americans) are our enemies, they took our lands, they imprisoned our queen, they have banned our language, they forcibly made us a colony of the United States," shouted Haunani Trask, a University of Hawaii professor and leader of Ka Lahui Hawaii. Her group supports more autonomy for native Hawaiians within the current state and federal system. Sunday's march and other events climaxed five days of activities commemorating Queen Liliuokalani's overthrow. It included Gov. John Waihe'e's decision to remove the U.S. flag from state buildings in the capital district of Honolulu until Monday.

### Pro-independence rally held in Crimea

MOSCOW (AP) — More than 10,000 pro-Russia protesters marched through the Black Sea port of Sevastopol Sunday to demand Ukraine allow a referendum on independence for Crimea, news reports said. The rally was organised by two groups seeking independence for the strategic southern region, the Interfax News Agency reported. The protesters accused the Ukraine government of pursuing nationalist policies and called for a referendum on independence no later than March 1994. Interfax said.

### Special court to try rulers — Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia plans to amend its constitution so that hereditary rulers, currently immune to the law, could face trial in a special court. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad said Monday. "There will be no immunity from the law that applies to everybody else except that the court is different," the national Bernama News Agency quoted Mr. Mahathir as saying.

## U.N. seeks release of troops held by Khmer Rouge

PHNOM PENH (R) — The Militant Khmer Rouge have failed to respond to U.N. demands for the immediate release of four U.N. peacekeepers detained by the guerrilla faction since Sunday, the U.N. spokesman said.

"So far we have been unable to get a response from the NADK (Khmer Rouge) why these men are being detained and when they will be freed," Eric Falt, spokesman for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), said Monday.

About 3,000 Germans and 1,500 French people met on Europe Bridge over the River Rhine which marks the border, then gathered later for a rally on

the French side.

Members of the Strasbourg-based European Parliament and a visiting delegation of U.S. congressmen joined the demonstration, called by anti-racist organisations, unions and immigrant workers' groups in the two countries.

Foreigners in Germany have been the targets of firebombings and assaults by racist extremists

## French, Germans join march against racism

STRASBOURG (R) — Several thousand French and German demonstrators have marched together in the French border city of Strasbourg to call for a Europe free of racism, anti-Semitism and Xenophobia.

About 3,000 Germans and 1,500 French people met on Europe Bridge over the River Rhine which marks the border, then gathered later for a rally on

## Manila wants U.S. to defend sea lanes

MANILA (AP) — A year after the Philippines ordered U.S. forces out of the country, the foreign secretary said Monday the Clinton administration should continue an American military presence in the Far East.

"We see the need for an effective U.S. military presence in the region because we think the continued U.S. presence will translate into sustained economic

growth within the region," Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo told reporters.

"The U.S. should remain committed to defending the sea lanes in the Pacific and in the South East Asian lake," he added.

U.S. ability to provide such defence was impaired by the September 1991 decision by the Philippine Senate to reject a new, 10-year lease for the Subic Bay

Naval Base, which had been a key part of the American security umbrella.

U.S. and Philippine officials then began talks on a multiyear withdrawal. But the talks broke down and the government of former President Corason Aquino ordered U.S. troops to leave by the end of 1992.

The last troops departed Subic in November.

## Miyazawa rules out bigger overseas role for army

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has ruled out any revision of Japan's constitution to increase the army's international role, news reports said Monday.

Mr. Miyazawa talking to Japanese reporters in Brunei Sunday, said he could not support a ruling party plan to open formal discussions in parliament on amending the 1947 constitution.

Some senior figures in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) want to ensure Japanese peacekeeping troops, sent abroad to take part in U.N.-sanctioned operations, are not barred from operating in war zones, where they might need to defend themselves.

Mr. Miyazawa made clear he considered this unacceptable. "It would still involve the use of force even if the troops were acting under the framework of the United Nations," he said at the end of a four-nation tour of South East Asia.

His comments were carried by all Japan's leading dailies. "Japan must not repeat its mistakes (of World War II)," Mr. Miyazawa said, referring to the imperial army's invasion and

occupation of much of Asia up to 1945.

"Fifty years is a short period of time, although it may seem very long," he said. "We should not forget the past too easily."

Last week the LDP approved a proposal to create a bipartisan parliamentary committee to debate possible changes to the U.S.-drafted "peace constitution" for the first time.

A growing number of LDP lawmakers have called for a review of article nine, which states that Japan renounces the use of threats or force to settle international disputes and restricts the army to defending home shores.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said in Spain Sunday that he hoped parliament would at least support a new interpretation of the constitution to allow Japan to take part in more U.N. peacekeeping operations.

"We can't revise the constitution right away... so what's very important now is that we open debate on how to interpret the document so that we can contribute to U.N. efforts," Mr. Watanabe told Japanese reporters. Kyodo News Agency reported.

To amend the constitution, the LDP would have to win the approval of over two-thirds of both houses of parliament and then get the endorsement of a majority in a referendum.

Mr. Watanabe argued that Japan would not be embarking on a military build-up, merely helping to settle regional conflicts.

"Japan's not going to become a policeman to the world," he said, according to Kyodo. "What we're facing here is an unavoidable political issue for the 21st century — our participation in collective security operations to prevent and settle disputes around the world."

Mr. Miyazawa left Brunei for home Monday at the end of a week-long visit to four of the six members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Japanese officials said Mr. Miyazawa's meetings with leaders of Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei underlined Tokyo's efforts to promote discussion on new directions for Japan and ASEAN in the post-cold war era.

Leaders of the remaining two ASEAN members — the Philip-

pines and Singapore — will visit Japan in the first half of this year, the officials said.

Mr. Miyazawa met Brunei ruler and Prime Minister Sultan Hassanall Bolkiah Sunday. He was seen off at the Brunei International Airport by Finance Minister Prince Jefri Bolkiah.

The officials said Mr. Miyazawa was impressed by the region's strong economic growth and political stability.

"My impression has indeed confirmed that this region offers the brightest prospect among the various regions," Mr. Miyazawa was quoted as saying by a senior official.

Delivering a keynote address in Bangkok Saturday, Mr. Miyazawa pledged to work with ASEAN to build a secure and prosperous South East Asia.

"Japan will think and act with ASEAN," Mr. Miyazawa said. During his talks with Sultan Hassanall Bolkiah, Mr. Miyazawa said Tokyo was renewing its long-term liquefied natural gas (LNG) order from Brunei and had agreed to discuss a row, over air links, the only hiccup in otherwise smooth relations.